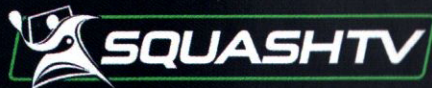


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# WELCOME



On behalf of the Professional Squash Association, I would like to welcome all fans, players, coaches, referees and sponsors to the University Club of Chicago for the 2020-21 PSA World Championships presented by the Walter Family.

Chicago has been a real staple of the PSA World Tour since the 1980s and I am very much looking forward to seeing our world-class athletes line up in the Windy City to compete for a World Championship trophy - the sport's highest honour - for the second time.

Of course, this is the first World Championship to be played amidst the backdrop of the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a huge impact on the PSA Tour and the lives of our athletes.

The fact that we are able to showcase 128 of the world's finest squash players in these times is testament to the fantastic work that the team at the University Club of Chicago has done behind the scenes to ensure that all of our players and staff have a safe space to operate in, and I'd like to thank John Flanigan and his team here.

This is the second occasion in which our pinnacle tournament has offered up \$1,000,000 in total player compensation. Both times, this has been achieved due to the incredible support of the Walter

family. Mark and Kimbra Walter have been closely linked to the Windy City Open in the past, and their continued commitment to the PSA World Championships in Chicago is fantastic to see.

That record-equalling prize purse underlines how important this tournament is on the PSA World Tour calendar. Being World Champion is one of the highest honours awarded to any squash player and the hunger with which players fight for that iconic trophy often means the World Championships is the platform for squash's most intense showdowns.

I'd like to wish all players the best of luck throughout the week here in Chicago and I can't wait to see the action unfold. I hope all of our fans - both those in attendance at the University Club of Chicago and those watching from afar - enjoy what looks set to be a captivating tournament.

Enjoy the squash.

**Alex Gough**  
PSA Chief Executive.

# WELCOME to the



# 2020-21 PSA SQUASH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS presented by the Walter Family!

Throughout the past year, two things frequently struck me. First, how lucky we were that the 2020 Windy City Open, which concluded on March 4, 2020, was able to be completed and that, to the best of our knowledge, no one became ill with the virus. And second, how much work our local and global squash communities did to stay connected. Along with local clubs, Illinois Squash offered weekly online workouts and all local pros participated, MetroSquash offered online workouts, study sessions, and provided information and computers for home study, and care packages to students in their program. US Squash provided resources for clubs and hosted many informational meetings planning the return to competition. And the completion of the Specter National Training Center is a milestone for US Squash. The Professional Squash Association Foundation started its "We Are One" campaign to support pro players deprived of tournament prize money income and the PSA worked hard to reintroduce the tour in a way that protected players.

The pandemic has underlined how much squash supports our physical and mental health and is integral to all those who play or who are squash fans. Getting the World Championships to take place during a pandemic has been challenging

and has happened only through everyone's support.

The Walter Family's support of pro squash is unmatched, and we are grateful they are such true squash fans. The PSA staff, the Tournament Committee, the University Club of Chicago staff, especially Assistant Athletic Director Toneisha Tillman and Squash Director Yoni Ellous, deserve our thanks for all the extra effort the event takes. A special thanks to Squash Engine and McWil Courts for their flexibility, work ethic and positive attitude that allowed the event to pivot from its planned site at the Skylight Board of Trade venue to the University Club.

And You—the generous corporate sponsors, loyal patrons, fans, and volunteers—you make this event happen. And finally, of utmost importance, the professional players. Their training and competitive plans shattered, they had to find a way to keep going forward despite the uncertainty.

I'm glad the pros persevered and am looking forward to seeing them all fly about the court with fierce grace, speed, agility. Please enjoy the great competition and wonderful camaraderie that a live pro squash event brings!

Enjoy!  
**John Flanigan**





2020-21 SQUASH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
PRESENTED BY THE WALTER FAMILY  
14 - 22 July 2021

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# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS PROGRAM EVENT INFORMATION

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**University Club of Chicago**  
76 East Monroe Street 312.696.2265

**General Admission Tickets:** Check-in and sales in the Front Lobby of the Club. Opens one hour before match play starts.

**Sponsors and Patrons Only:** Registration and check-in at the Will Call desk on the 9th floor. Opens one hour before match play starts.

**Corporate Sponsor Lounge Food Service:**  
11:30 to 1:00 p.m ; 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## MATCH PLAY SCHEDULE

**On Wednesday, July 14 through Sunday, July 18:**

- Men's and Women's 1st through 3rd round matches will be on the glass court in Cathedral Hall on the 9th floor. Session 1: 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Session 2: 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 19: Men's and Women's Quarter Finals:** 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 20: Men's and Women's Quarter Finals:** 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 21: Semi-finals: Women and Men's Semi Finals:** 5:00 to 9 p.m.
- Thursday, July 22: Women's Final, 6 p.m.;** Men's Finals immediately following

Complete draws and schedule can be found at  
[www.worldsquashchamps.com](http://www.worldsquashchamps.com)





# 30 YEARS ON

By RJ Mitchel

**This week's PSA World Squash Championships marks the 30th anniversary of arguably the greatest single world title triumph of them all - Rodney Martin's 1991 triumph in Adelaide, Australia.**

At just 25-years-old Martin made history by becoming the first and only player ever to beat both Jansher and Jahangir Khan - the two squash immortals who vie for the fabled status of our sport's G.O.A.T - in the same tournament. Sandwiched in between those twin triumphs was a four-game despatch of fellow Aussie Chris Dittmar, widely regarded as the best player never to win a major.

The fact that Martin did this on successive days seemed to suggest that a new era was dawning on the sport and that the Sydney raised player's inventive attacking game would take squash beyond the Khan epoch.

Sadly that now sepia dimmed conquest was to prove the high-watermark of Martin's career, as a hip injury brought a premature end to his career just three years later.

Yet looking back Martin admits that a training regime that incorporated regular psychological sessions with Ian Lynagh, the father of



Australian rugby icon Michael, the use of a salt water float tank at the Australian Institute of Sport's Brisbane base and the coaching of Geoff Hunt, the game's first ever professional World Champion, had sent him to the Adelaide Entertainment Centre with belief that despite his daunting draw this could be his year.

"In general, I was feeling confident, and I'd done a lot of quality training and benefited from the fact there were a lot of top players who had based themselves in Australia in the month leading up to the World Open in Adelaide," said Martin.

"I felt like I was in the best shape of my career but when the draw came out, I saw that if I got beyond the opening rounds, it was Jansher in the quarter-finals and then Chris Dittmar in the semis and in the other half of the draw you had Jahangir likely to make the final - it was pretty daunting.

"Yet it didn't deter me. I had beaten all these guys before so I had the ability

and belief I could do it. The major hurdle was that no one had beaten Jansher and Jahangir in the same tournament before and the bottom line was, that if I were going to win the World Open, I would almost certainly have to do that."

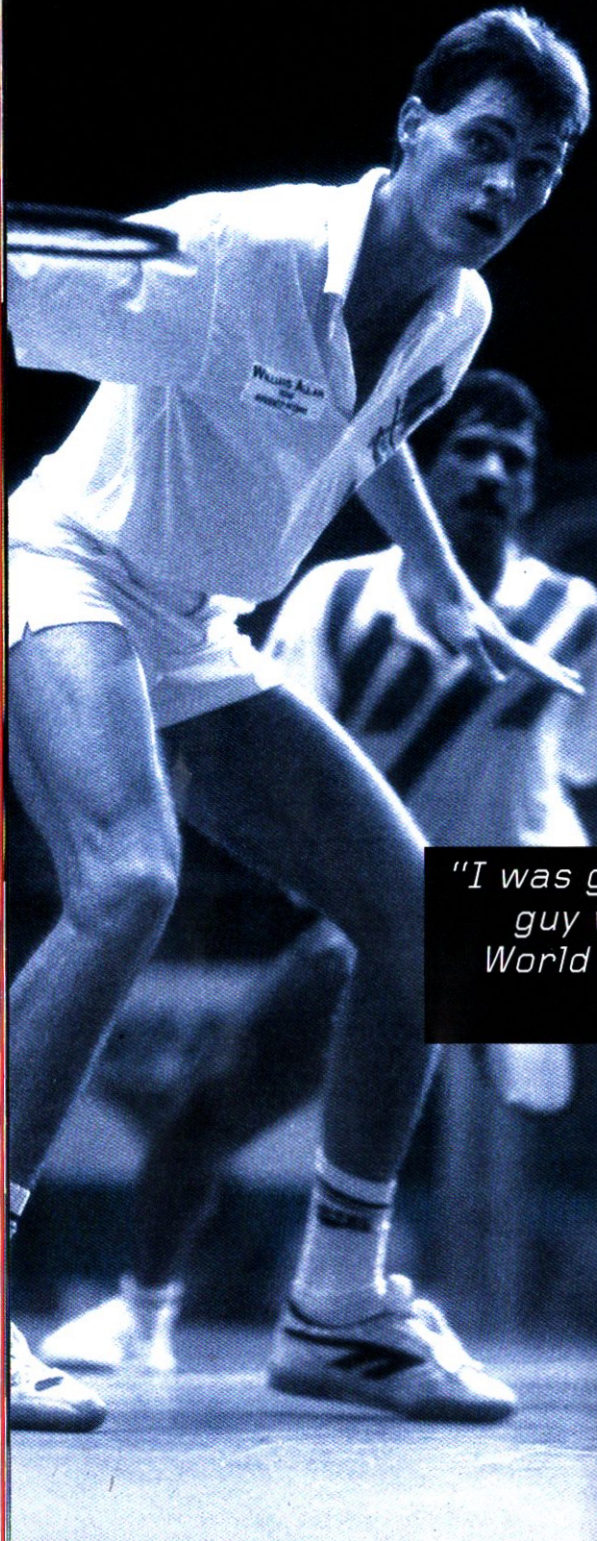
After routine opening wins, Martin was ready to meet Jansher in a last-eight clash that was classed as the tournament's must-see encounter.

Yet in World Championship terms the portents were hardly favourable. In 1987 Martin had succumbed to Dittmar in the semis before repeating that disappointing experience in the quarters in '88. Then in Malaysia in '89 Martin's hopes had been ended even more painfully by brother Brett in a gut-wrenching five game defeat.

Yet Martin was determined that, on home soil, 1991 would prove different: "When I got to Jansher I went out with the attitude that I needed to put 110% into the first two games as I believed that if I won the first game or one of the first two games,

*"I had beaten all these guys before so I had the ability and belief I could do it."*





then I had a really good chance to beat him.

"So, my attitude was: 'I'm winning the first game!' and that if I did then it really was game on. I went out there pretty aggressive and won that opening game and then shut him out 3-0.

"In fact, that win and the way I achieved it was huge for the rest of the tournament. I was going in there against the guy who had won the last two World Opens and so many other tournaments in the year previous and my concentration was on another level as I knew this could be my last match.

"I took my opportunities, hit the winners and used delay and hold to make him feel uncomfortable and it worked, and, in the end, he dropped his head."

The challenge that awaited in the semi-final was arguably even greater.

Dittmar was in the shape of his life, had yet to drop a game and was determined to claim the world title he believed was his due. On the boards of his home city of Adelaide and having already lost in four World Open finals including the previous year's, Dittmar looked simply unstoppable.

*"I was going in there against the guy who had won the last two World Opens. My concentration was on another level."*

"Chris came out and absolutely hammered me from the start," said Martin. "He came out to dominate me physically and mentally and gave me nothing.

"I think I lost the first game 15-5 and I was down 11-3 or 4 in the second and then all of a sudden something clicked in the way I was hitting the ball and I turned the game around.

"I lifted my tempo and put pressure on him and that was how I turned it around. To get through that game after having been a game down and almost two down

*"It was still the final of the World Open against probably the best player that had ever played."*

and being dominated was massive in terms of the final and how I went into it.

"It also meant I was sharp and confident but not fatigued when I made the final. I couldn't have asked for more in that respect."

Waiting for him in the finale was a resurgent Jahangir who had already beaten Martin in three harrowing British Open finals and was intent on reclaiming the World Championship from his greatest rival and fellow Pakistani Jansher, whom Martin had so helpfully removed from the championship earlier.

"I had played Jahangir plenty of times, lost to him plenty of times but also beaten him on several occasions, so I had the confidence I could do it," recalled Martin.

"But it was still the final of the World Open against probably the best player that had ever played and that was in my mind, there is no denying it.

"I had lost three times to him in the final

of the British Open and I said to myself: 'I am just not losing this match today.' I felt fit and confident.

"Jahangir tried to overwhelm you with power all the time from start to finish. He hit the ball hard, took it early and it was just full throttle from him the whole way. I tried to counter that by letting him generate all the pace.

"I leant early on that it is harder for someone like Jahangir to generate all the pace if he is not getting much back and that this also made it harder for him to be accurate.

"So, I knew that he would give me loose balls to take advantage of. Although I lost the first game it was a tough one and I felt like it took the edge off Jahangir and I still felt good going into the second, but like Jansher, there was no way I wanted to be going down 2-0.

"From then I started to play really well, hit outright winners and produced my best squash."





Yet when match point came after a fractious encounter which was pockmarked by several heavy contacts between the two and a hefty let call count from New Zealand referee Chas Evans, which appeared to ruffle Khan's feathers, Martin faced the defining moment of his career with typical self-belief.

"I remember the match point well," he said. "I knew that I had him out of position and that he had to boast, and I was on it really quick in the front forehand to play the straight drop.

*"To have beaten both Jansher and Jahangir in the same tournament, which no one had done, well that was almost even bigger."*

"Although I was nervous, I knew that if I played a quick straight drop that Jahangir was far enough away that he probably wouldn't get there and that's what happened. But I was always up in the fourth and when I got him with that drop, it was almost unbelievable. I'd done it!

"It was almost like relief as much as excitement. I had the chances to win major tournaments before and obviously lost to Jahangir in three British Open finals and even now, looking back, I really wish I had won one of these.

"But with the worlds being in Australia, I had friends and family there and that made it really special for me. But also to have beaten both Jansher and Jahangir in the same tournament, which no one had done, well that was almost even bigger."

Tragically for Martin, and indeed squash, that seminal victory was to prove the beginning of the end.

"I tore my plantar fascia soon after and was out for four of five months and then my hip problem came into play. So really after the World Open that was it," said Martin.

"At 27 the hip problem stopped my career when I had thought I've got plenty of years to win major tournaments. For that to be taken away was really tough.

"When I did walk away from the game though, I was reasonably satisfied at what I had achieved and that I had been able to show people what I could produce.

"But I felt like I had a lot more to give and that I could have won many more major titles but for the hip. So, I am really grateful I won the '91 World Open and the way that I achieved it. No one can take that away from me."



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# MOMEN'S MAGIC MOMENT

In 2019 right here in Chicago, Egyptian Tarek Momen saw his lifelong dream of becoming World Champion shattered at the final hurdle when he lost out to compatriot Ali Farag in the final of the 2018-19 World Championship.



Having defeated top seed and title favourite Mohamed ElShorbagy in the semi-final, Momen was in the form of his life but admitted the size of the occasion, and having his dream within grasp, proved too much to handle inside Chicago's Union Station.

But finding himself back in the showpiece event in the 2019-20 iteration of the World Championship in Qatar, Momen displayed the growth in his game that had resulted from that defeat in Chicago to coolly dispatch Paul Coll and claim the sport's biggest prize - fulfilling a childhood ream in the process.

"In Chicago I was so close, but I think I was probably too desperate to win," admits Momen.

"I was so excited for that match. I felt like I was within touching distance of achieving a childhood dream, all I could think about was winning, so

**"I was so excited for that match. I felt like I was within touching distance of achieving a childhood dream"**

when it got to match time I wasn't able to produce my best and I was kind of heartbroken afterwards.

"But in Qatar I felt different. Having been so close in Chicago, I knew I could do it and I believed totally in my ability - but I also didn't get overly excited, I handled the occasion better. I felt that whole week that the title was going to be mine - even if externally it didn't seem possible."

Momen had begun the 2019-20 season in fine form, reaching the final of the Oracle NetSuite Open early on to show his rivals he was there to contend.

But fate looked certain to prevent Momen's dreams from coming true once again after he developed a plantar fasciitis issues just weeks out from the World Champs.

"The three weeks before the tournament were the toughest of my career," he said.

"I was in great shape and had started the season really well, but then I had this niggle in my foot and it messed up all the preparations. The World Championship was my only focus that season, everything was geared





towards peaking at that event, and the injury threw everything into doubt.

"When I took my flight to Doha I had two feelings that were so strong, and they were opposites. I had no confidence whatsoever in my game, but strongly I also felt assured that this was going to be my time.

"I don't know how to explain it. I'd had so many close missed opportunities before that event that I felt I was due a big win. I knew I was nowhere near where I wanted to be playing wise, but I just told myself that it's going to happen somehow."

Routine victories over Raphael Kandra and Mazen Hesham helped to ease any early worries in the Momen camp, but against home favourite Abdullah Al Tamimi in the third round the wheels almost came off.

"On day one I felt very, very nervous and I was under a lot of stress throughout the event - I wasn't sleeping well at all - and I have to be honest, the match with Abdullah in the in the last 16 was a nightmare," he said.

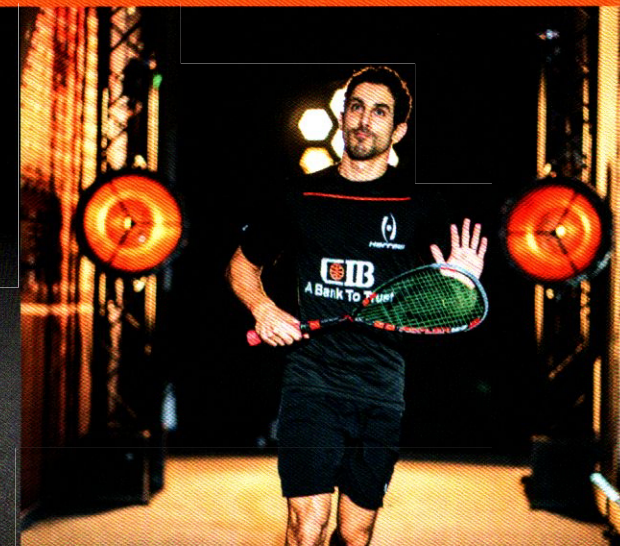
"I was 2-1 down and honestly, I thought that was it - I could see myself boarding the plane. But I told myself just to fight and to believe, and even though I was not at my best, when I got through that match it felt like thing started to align for me."

After scraping past Tamimi, Momen's hopes of a title-winning run were buoyed when 2016 champion Karim Abdel Gawad was knocked out by a renascent James Willstrop. The following day then saw Marwan ElShorbagy throw the tournament wide open as he dispatched elder brother, and title favourite, Mohamed ElShorbagy, leaving Momen as the highest ranked and highest seeded player remaining at the last four stage.

"When I saw Karim and Mohamed lose, at that point I was thinking that the event had my name written all over it, but at the same time, the pressure began to intensify.

"When you see a lot of upsets in the tournament, you feel like now it's your turn but all of a sudden you are expected to win.

**"When I saw Karim and Mohamed lose, at that point I was thinking that the event had my name written all over it, but at the same time, the pressure began to intensify. "**



"I had two tough matches in Diego (Elias) and Simon (Rösner) to reach the final and I was very proud of how I managed to handle those situations and come through them to make it to the final."

Standing in Momen's way in the finale was Paul Coll, who had used his endurance and physicality to perfection to become the first New Zealander in over 25 years to reach the World Championship final.

And having suffered a comprehensive 3-0 defeat at the hands of Coll in the previous encounter prior to the World Championship, Momen appeared to have his work cut out to end a testing week on a high.

"Paul had obviously played very well to reach the final, but on the morning of the match I felt totally different to the morning of the final in Chicago," said Momen.

"I was calm and my focus was solely on the first game, I wasn't allowing myself to think about the trophy or what winning would be like, so that experience in Chicago definitely helped me as I had experienced it before - and playing a World Championship final is different to any other match.

"I had full belief in myself, and I started well. It was only when I was serving at match ball that it started to hit me.







"There have been so many times when I have been on the court practising, playing solo, when I have tried to imagine what it would be like to hit the winning shot in a World Championship final and all of those memories and thoughts came into my head.

"I had to take a moment to compose myself and focus on the next shot. As soon as I hit that winning dropshot, I started crying immediately. It was an amazing feeling - it was the most incredible moment of my squash period by far.

"I don't think I'll ever go through something as incredible or special and unique as that again. I was a bit scared that when I actually realised it that it wouldn't be as great as I imagined, but it was, it was so great. It was such an incredible moment."

Having achieved a lifelong dream, Momen could be forgiven for taking his foot off the gas in the aftermath of his World Championship triumph, but the now

**"I had to take a moment to compose myself and focus on the next shot. As soon as I hit that winning dropshot, I started crying immediately. It was an amazing feeling - it was the most incredible moment of my squash period by far."**

33-year-old admits that he has struggled with motivation since that day in Doha.

"Just after the Worlds I was in good form and I reached a few finals and won the Canada Cup, but when Coronavirus hit and we had to break from competing, I started to struggle," he said.

"There were moments during the first Covid lockdown where I was just doing ordinary things, not training, and I started to question whether I wanted to go back to my old life or not.

"It was tough for me mentally to switch back when things started to open up four months later. I started to you know, question everything around me and struggles to get in shape and find my momentum, my rhythm and even my desire.

"At the first few events after Covid, I was asking myself what am I doing here? I tried so hard after the World Champs to not be satisfied, because I knew as soon as I win the World Champs I could take a step back.

"When you achieve something like that, you cooldown a bit. But after Manchester, World Tour Finals and Qatar, I started to feel different again and re-found that desire to win again.

"Since then I have been pushing, and I feel like things are going in the right direction, so I am keen to prove to myself that I can get back to where I was and build on that by winning more World Championships and achieving a new goal, which is to become World No.1."

Feats that are well within Momen's grasp this week inside Chicago's University Club.





# Story of the 2019-20 PSA WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

**Location:** Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt

**Winner:** Nour El Sherbini **Runner-Up:** Raneem El Welily

**Despite not playing a competitive match for almost six months, Egypt's Nour El Sherbini showed her class as she claimed her fourth PSA Women's World Championship title as the iconic Great Pyramid of Giza provided the backdrop for the Women's World Championship for the first time ever.**

It was a landmark occasion that saw the women's winner earn more than their male counterpart for the first time in the history of the sport thanks to the backing of tournament sponsor CIB.

The early rounds of the tournament took place at Cairo's Shooting Club in 6th of October City and it was Malaysia's rising star Sivasangari Subramaniam that caused the first upset, defeating American Amanda Sobhy to claim her first win over a top 10 player and reach the second round of the World Championships for the first time in her career.

Defending champion El Sherbini had been struggling with a knee injury

in the lead up to the event and was making her first PSA appearance of the season, but showed no signs of ever being away from a squash court as she swept aside England's Rachael Chadwick in 25-minutes, while then-World No.1 El Welily eased into action with an 11-3, 11-5, 11-4 victory over wildcard Sana Ibrahim.

That impressive form continued for the Egyptian contenders into the second round with El Welily, Nour El Tayeb and Nouran Gohar all securing safe passage through to the third round to compete on the glass court, while El Sherbini recovered from a slow start against Canada's Hollie Naughton to advance.

The Egyptian dominance continued through the round of 16 where El Welily and El Tayeb set up what looked set to be a block-buster last eight encounter. It was however a match that was tinged in emotion as El Tayeb retired from the game just minutes into the first, leaving the court in tears due to family reasons, and granting El Welily passage to the semi-finals.

El Sherbini continued her purple patch with a 3-0 victory over New Zealand's Joelle King to ease her way into the last four while arguably the match of the whole tournament and one of the matches of the season saw Egyptian teenager Hania El Hammamy announce herself on the big stage.

Fighting back from two games down against the experienced Camille Serme, El Hammamy left the Frenchwoman devastated to reach the semi-finals of the World Championships for the first time in her career where she would face El Sherbini.

Victory over England's Sarah-Jane Perry granted Nouran Gohar a place in the semi-finals, ensuring the last four would be an all-Egyptian affair.

El Hammamy's giant-killing run came to an abrupt halt at the hands of El Sherbini, who won 3-0. El Welily meanwhile was forced to come from a game down against Gohar to advance and face El Sherbini for the third time in a World Championship final.

El Welily had beaten El Sherbini at the 2016 Al Ahram Open, becoming the first woman to win a professional squash title in front of the Pyramids, but she looked overawed by the occasion in the World Championship final on a day that also saw El Sherbini celebrate her 24th birthday.

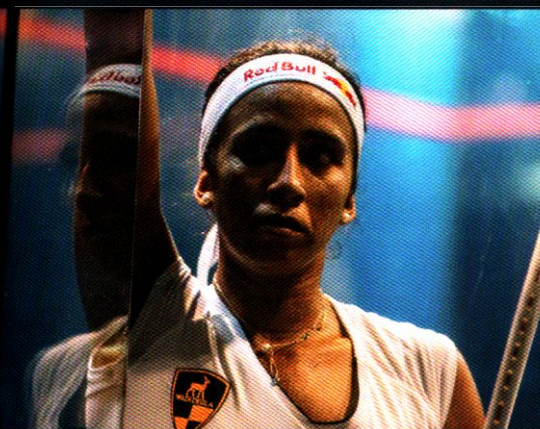
And she celebrated it in style by capitalising on a series of uncharacteristic errors from El Welily to prevail 3-1 to win the title, becoming only the fourth – and youngest – female player to win four World Championship trophies while she was the

first person to win a World Championship trophy in front of the Pyramids since Australia's David Palmer in 2006.

"I didn't know what I was going to do but I took the risk and took the decision that I wanted to play this tournament badly," said El Sherbini afterwards.

"I wanted to come and try and see how it goes. I was getting better every match and I'm very grateful and happy to be standing here right now.

"I missed playing with all the top players and especially Raneem. She is closest to my heart and it's very hard to play her mentally and emotionally, but we try to leave the emotions and focus on squash once we get inside the court. I think because today is my birthday, I was making sure not to be sad. I was very relaxed and it took a lot of pressure off thinking about the messages, so it helped me a lot."





# 2021 PSA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

## TOP 8 SEEDS: WOMEN



### #1 Nour El Sherbini

Age: 25  
EGY

**World Championship Best:** Winner: 2015, 2016, 2018-19, 2019-20 | Runner-up: 2013, 2017

The youngest ever, and Egypt's first, World Champion, Nour El Sherbini has won almost every major title in the game at the age of 25. Having claimed the sport's most coveted title on four occasions, including here in Chicago in 2019, El Sherbini has already cemented her status as one of the all time greats - yet she still retains a fierce desire to win and will be hoping to complete a World Championship hat-trick this week.

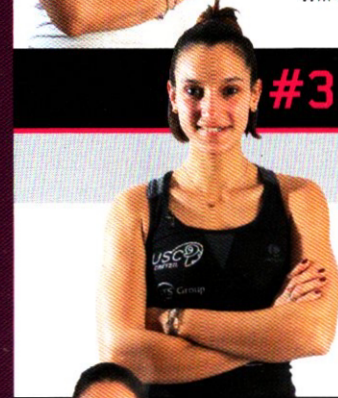


### #2 Nouran Gohar

Age: 23  
EGY

**World Championship Best:** Semi-finals: 2019-20, 2016, 2015 | Quarter-finals: 2018-19, 2017

At 23, Nouran Gohar has already claimed major titles such as the British Open, U.S. Open and Hong Kong Open and reached the World No.1 ranking in 2020. Her relentless hard-hitting style is unmatched across the Women's Tour, but she has fallen short at the semi-final stage at three World Championships - but having won the last event to have taken place in the United States, the 2020 U.S Open, she'll be hoping to keep her US form going this week.



### #3 Camille Serme

Age: 31  
FRA

**World Championship Best:** Semi-finals: 2018-19, 2017, 2016 | Quarter-finals: 2019-20, 2015, 2014, 2013

The most successful Frenchwoman ever to pick up a squash racket, Serme has won a plethora of major titles including the British Open, U.S. Open and Tournament of Champions, but she has endured continual heartache on the World Championship stage. Her pace, fitness and finesse provide her with all the ingredients required to be a champion and if she comes into this week with her mental game on point, she could finally achieve her lifetime ambition.



### #4 Hania El Hammamy

Age: 20  
EGY

**World Championship Best:** Semi-finals: 2019-20

At just 20-years-old, Hania El Hammamy is the youngest player ranked inside the top ten but she has already claimed major silverware after winning the 2020 Black Ball Open. Following the retirement of Raneem El Welily, Hammamy has emerged as the main challenger to Nour El Sherbini's World No.1 crown, but she will have to produce her very best this week in order to capture the crown.



### #5 Amanda Sobhy

Age: 28  
USA

**World Championship Best:** Quarter-finals: 2015

With a wealth of attacking options and a cannon-like left arm, Amanda Sobhy is one of the most exciting talents on the Women's tour and recent victories over her higher-ranked opponents will have buoyed her confidence ahead of this week's event. A first round defeat last time out at the 2019-20 World Championship will have stung, and with the added incentive of competing on home soil, Sobhy is a dark horse to go all the way this week.



### #6 Sarah-Jane Perry

Age: 31  
ENG

Sarah Jane-Perry has established herself as England's number one player during the past two years and her full repertoire of shots and a penchant for the flamboyant has guided her to major success at the Black Ball Open and NetSuite Open in recent years. She has troubled all of her higher-seeded rivals and if she can produce her best day after day this week, she has more than enough ability to cause an upset and become the first English winner since Laura Massaro in 2013.



### #7 Joelle King

Age: 32  
NZL

**World Championship Best:** Quarter finalist 2019-20, 2018-19, 2017, 2013

A serious achilles injury appeared to have brought Joelle King's career to a premature end in 2014, but the powerful Kiwi has battled her way back to the very top of the game and has produced some of her best ever squash in the last 18 months. Having won both Commonwealth Games Gold and her first major PSA at the Hong Kong Open in 2018, she has shown she is capable of winning major titles, and she'll be hoping to replicate that form this week for her biggest win yet.



### #8 Salma Hany

Age: 24  
EGY

**World Championship Best:** Last 16: 2019-20

A consistent quarter-finalist over the past two years, Salma Hany has risen up the rankings to her current career high of No.9 and comes into this week in career-best form. A dynamic mover, with the ability to hit winners from all angles, she has the game to challenge the top title-contenders but will have to find a new level of mental consistency to cause a major upset.





2020-21 SQUASH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
PRESENTED BY THE WALTERTILLY  
14 - 22 July 2021

**ROUND 1**  
14 JULY 2021

- GLASS COURT  
[1] NOUR EL SHERBINI (EGY)  
HALEY MENDEZ (USA)
- EMILIA SOINI (FIN)  
[28] JULIANNE COURTICE (ENG)
- GLASS COURT  
[19] OLIVIA FIECHTER (USA)  
ENORA VILLARD (FRA)
- MENNA HAMED (EGY)  
[16] TINNE GILIS (BEL)
- [10] JOSHNA CHINAPPA (IND)  
TESSA TER SLUIS (NED)
- HANA RAMADAN (EGY)  
[30] MELISSA ALVES (FRA)
- [25] COLINE AUMARD (FRA)  
LIU TSZ-LING (HKG)
- VANESSA CHU (HKG)  
[6] SARAH-JANE PERRY (ENG)
- GLASS COURT  
[5] AMANDA SOBHY (USA)  
JASMINE HUTTON (ENG)
- TSZ-WING TONG (HKG)  
[24] NADA ABBAS (EGY)
- [21] DANIELLE LETOURNEAU (CAN)  
MARINA STEFANONI (USA)
- CRISTINA GOMEZ (ESP)  
[15] YATHREB ADEL (EGY)
- [13] NELE GILIS (BEL)  
NICOLE BUNYAN (CAN)
- SANA IBRAHIM (EGY)  
[27] SIVASANGARI SUBRAMANIAM (MAS)
- [17] NADINE SHAHIN (EGY)  
TZE LOK HO (HKG)
- GLASS COURT  
MAYAR HANY (EGY)  
[4] HANIA EL HAMMAMY (EGY)

**ROUND 2**  
16 JULY 2021

- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT

**ROUND 3**  
17 JULY 2021

- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT

**QUARTER FINAL**  
19 JULY 2021

- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT

**QUARTER FINAL**  
20 JULY 2021

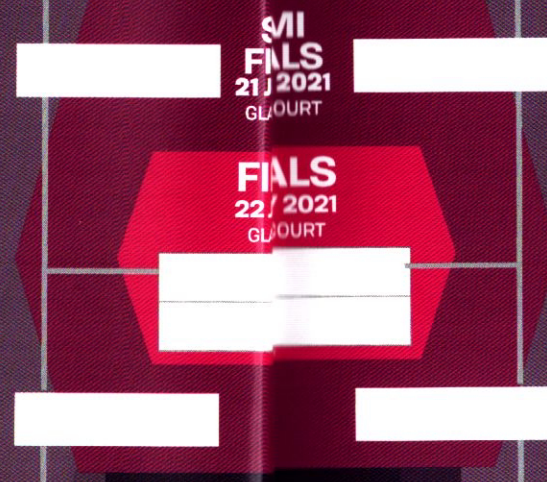
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT

**ROUND 2**  
15 JULY 2021

- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT
- GLASS COURT

**ROUND 1**  
15 JULY 2021

- GLASS COURT  
[3] CAMILLE SERME (FRA)  
LEE KA YI (HKG)
- MARIAM METWALLY (EGY)  
[22] DONNA LOBBAN (AUS)
- [23] LOW WEE WERN (MAS)  
NADIA PFISTER (SUI)
- GLASS COURT  
CINDY MERLO (SUI)  
[12] OLIVIA CLYNE (USA)
- [11] ROWAN ELARABY (EGY)  
ALEXANDRA FULLER (RSA)
- GLASS COURT  
JANA SHIHA (EGY)  
[20] SABRINA SOBHY (USA)
- [29] ZEINA MICKAWY (EGY)  
FARIDA MOHAMED (EGY)
- INETA MACKEVICA (LAT)  
[8] SALMA HANY (EGY)
- [7] JOELLE KING (NZL)  
MILOU VAN DER HEIJDEN (NED)
- LUCIE STEFANONI (USA)  
[26] EMILY WHITLOCK (WAL)
- [32] FARIDA MOHAMED (EGY)  
RACHEL ARNOLD (MAS)
- MENNA NASSER (EGY)  
[14] ALISON WATERS (ENG)
- [9] TESNI EVANS (WAL)  
NIKKI TODD (CAN)
- ANNA SERME (CZE)  
[31] LUCY TURMEL (ENG)
- [18] HOLLIE NAUGHTON (CAN)  
HANA MOATAZ (EGY)
- GLASS COURT  
LISA AITKEN (SCO)  
[2] NOURAN GOHAR (EGY)



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WOMEN'S DRAW 





**2020-21 SQUASH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
PRESENTED BY THE WALTER TILLY  
14 - 22 July 2021

**QUARTER FINAL**  
19 JULY 2021

**QUARTER FINAL**  
20 JULY 2021

**1/1**  
**FILS**  
21 JULY 2021  
GLASS COURT

**FILS**  
22 JULY 2021  
GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

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**MEN'S [RAW]** 

**ROUND 1**  
14 JULY 2021

**ROUND 2**  
16 JULY 2021

**ROUND 3**  
17 JULY 2021

**ROUND 2**  
16 JULY 2021

**ROUND 1**  
15 JULY 2021

GLASS COURT  
[1] ALI FARAG (EGY)  
FARAZ KHAN (USA)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT  
[4] PAUL COLL (NZL)  
TAYYAB ASLAM (PAK)

EAIN YOW NG (MAS)  
ADRIAN WALLER (ENG)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

NATHAN LAKE (ENG)  
VICTOR CROUIN (FRA)

GLASS COURT  
DIMITRI STEINMANN (SUI)  
TODD HARRITY (USA)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

RAPHAEL KANDRA (GER)  
ALFREDO AVILA (MEX)

ADITYA JAGTAP (IND)  
[10] MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ (COL)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

ALY HUSSEIN (EGY)  
[13] SAURAV GHOSAL (IND)

[16] OMAR MOSAAD (EGY)  
MAZEN GAMAL (EGY)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

[15] MAZEN HESHAM (EGY)  
MAX LEE (HKG)

RAMIT TANDON (IND)  
GEORGE PARKER (ENG)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

BAPTISTE MASOTTI (FRA)  
BERNAT JAUME (ESP)

MATHIEU CASTAGNET (FRA)  
LEONEL CARDENAS (MEX)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

JAMES WILLSTROP (ENG)  
BORJA GOLAN (ESP)

IVAN YUEN (MAS)  
[8] DIEGO ELIAS (PER)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT  
SEBASTIEN BONMALAIS (FRA)  
[6] KARIM ABDEL GAWAD (EGY)

[5] MARWAN ELSHORBAGY (EGY)  
RICHIE FALLOWS (ENG)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT  
[7] FARES DESSOUKY (EGY)  
GREG LOBBAN (SCO)

MOHAMED ELSHERBINI (EGY)  
AUGUSTE DUSSOURD (FRA)

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT

MAHESH MANGAONKAR (IND)  
BEN COLEMAN (ENG)

EDMON LOPEZ (ESP)  
NICOLAS MUELLER (SUI)

GLASS COURT

LUCAS SERME (FRA)  
ARTURO SALAZAR (MEX)

VIKRAM MALHOTRA (IND)  
[14] GREGOIRE MARCHE (FRA)

GLASS COURT

KARIM EL HAMMAMY (EGY)  
[11] MOHAMED ABOUELGHAR (EGY)

[12] MOSTAFA ASAL (EGY)  
YOUSSEF IBRAHIM (EGY)

GLASS COURT

[9] JOEL MAKIN (WAL)  
ABDULLA MOHD AL TAMIMI (QAT)

GLASS COURT  
ALAN CLYNE (SCO)  
SHAHJAHAN KHAN (USA)

GLASS COURT

IKER PAJARES BERNABEU (ESP)  
GREGORY GAULTIER (FRA)

DECLAN JAMES (ENG)  
YOUSSEF SOLIMAN (EGY)

GLASS COURT

CESAR SALAZAR (MEX)  
PATRICK ROONEY (ENG)

GLASS COURT  
ASIM KHAN (PAK)  
[3] TAREK MOMEN (EGY)

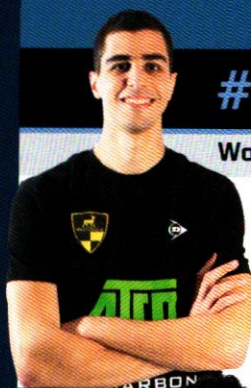
GLASS COURT

GLASS COURT  
TSZ FUNG YIP (HKG)  
[2] MOHAMED ELSHORBAGY (EGY)



# 2021 PSA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

## TOP 8 SEEDS: MEN



### #1 Ali Farag

Age:  
29



**World Championship Best:** Winner: 2018-19 | Semi-finals: 2017

Returning to the scene of his first World Championship triumph here in Chicago, Ali Farag comes into this week's event having reached the final in three of his last five - capturing two titles in the process.

Personal circumstances prevented Farag from defending the crown he won here in 2019, but with form on his side and an all-round game underpinned by an effortless ability to cover the court, he will be tough to stop inside the University Club.



### #2 Mohamed ElShorbagy

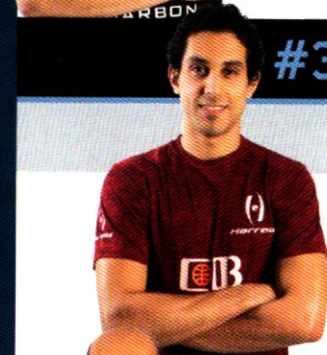
Age:  
30



**World Championship Best:** Winner: 2017 | Runner-up: 2012, 2014

With 43 titles to his name and having racked up over 40 months as World No.1, Mohamed ElShorbagy is already cemented his place amongst the pantheon of greats in the game - yet he remains unfulfilled at the World Championship.

He lost out to great rival Ramy Ashour in two of the greatest finals ever - in 2012 and 2014 - and while he finally broke his World Championship jinx in 2017 with victory over younger brother Marwan in the title-decider, this is an event with unfinished business for 'The Beast'.



### #3 Tarek Momen

Age:  
33



**World Championship Best:** Winner: 2019-20 | Runner-up: 2018-19

Defending World Champion Tarek Momen has held the crown for almost two years since defeating Paul Coll in the final in 2019, prior to the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic.

While Momen has failed to capture a major title since that win, his explosive movement and a delicate, subtle touch with the racket, mark him out as one of the most lethal players around while he has proven his ability to keep it together during the biggest week on tour.



### #5 Marwan ElShorbagy

Age:  
27



**World Championship Best:** Runner-up: 2017

Younger brother of second seed Mohamed, Marwan lost out to his brother in the 2017 World Championship final during what was an emotional encounter for both.

Since then however he has gone on to win the PSA World Tour Finals and Black Ball Open, firmly establishing himself as a title-contender in his own right, and with the tactical guile and court-craft to trouble all his main rivals, ElShorbagy's self-belief could be the key factor in his success this week.



### #7 Fares Dessouky

Age:  
26



**World Championship Best:** Quarter-finals: 2016

A natural-born shot-maker with explosive physicality, Fares Dessouky has recently started to deliver the huge potential has shown since bursting onto the squash scene in 2013.

Victory at the 2020 Black Ball Open, where he came from 0-2 down to defeat Ali Farag in the final, highlighted a new-found level of self-belief in the 26-year-old and if he can remain calm - and avoid becoming embroiled in refereeing disputes - he is more than capable to defeating all his highest seeded opposition.



### #4 Paul Coll

Age:  
29



**World Championship Best:** Runner-up: 2019-20

The most successful Kiwi male in 20 years, in 2019 Paul Coll became the first New Zealander to reach the World Championship final since Ross Norman in 1986 - however he fell short against Tarek Momen on that occasion.

Possessing a physicality and strength that have earned him the 'Superman' nickname, he has been tantalisingly close to a major breakthrough for the past year and if he can produce his best consistently this week he could cause a major upset.



### #6 Karim Abdel Gawad

Age:  
29



**World Championship Best:** Winner: 2016

2016 World Champion Karim Abdel Gawad is possibly the most relaxed player on Tour, with a languid style that enables him to make the game look effortless when he is at his very best.

Described by his rivals as the most gifted player inside the top ten, Gawad has all the attributes needed to succeed, but injury has hampered his recent exploits and he has failed to fire on all cylinders during the past few years.



### #8 Diego Elias

Age:  
24



**World Championship Best:** Quarter-finals: 2019-20

Having overtaken Miguel Angel Rodriguez as the premier Latin American player in the game, Diego Elias has recently cemented himself as a regular major tournament quarter-finalist yet he has failed to truly deliver on his world class ability. As a prodigal teenage talent, Elias is seen by many as a future World No.1 and has a complete game with very few weaknesses, yet tactical naivety and mental lapses have been his major undoing at the latter stages of events in recent times.



# Story of the 2019-20 PSA MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

**Location:** Doha, Qatar

**Winner:** Tarek Momen **Runner-Up:** Paul Coll

**The 2019-20 edition of the PSA Men's World Championship threw up plenty of twists and turns with the sport's showpiece event introducing a new World Champion into the history books when Egypt's Tarek Momen lifted the prestigious trophy.**

Momen had come close to getting his hands on the coveted title the previous season but fell short in the final against World No.1 Ali Farag in Chicago.

However, Farag was denied the opportunity to defend his title, withdrawing from the tournament on personal grounds, meaning that Momen moved into the bottom half of the draw with Mohamed ElShorbagy the top seed.

The 'Viper' got off to a strong start in Doha with a 3-1 victory on the glass court over Germany's Raphael Kandra, while top seed and main title rival ElShorbagy also eased into action with a 3-0 victory over Victor Crouin of France.

There was joy for the host nation on the opening day as two Qatari players – Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi and Syed Azlan

Amjad – claimed wins at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex to become the first Qatari duo to reach the second round of the PSA World Championship.

After defeating French World No.14 Gregorie Marche in the first round, Al Tamimi continued his fine form with a second-consecutive victory over French opposition, taking out Mathieu Castagnet to set up a third-round encounter with Momen after the Egyptian saw off compatriot Mazen Hesham in his second round clash.

Drama abounded in the third round, beginning when former World No.1 James Willstrop of England rolled back the years to produce a masterclass performance and defeat number three seed and 2016 World Champion Karim Abdel Gawad following a thrilling 71-minute clash.

It almost then went horribly wrong for Momen as he came up against an in-form Tamimi. Riding the wave of home support, Al Tamimi stunned Momen in the early exchanges and pushed ahead to a 2-1 lead. Momen managed to claw his way back into the game in a pivotal

fourth, before going on to secure his place in the last eight much to the disappointment of the home fans.

New Zealand's Paul Coll then had to battle through a 119-minute thriller with former World No.3 Omar Mosaad, winning 16-14 in the fifth game, to book his place in the quarter-finals while victory over Saurav Ghosal ensured top seed ElShorbagy would go up against his younger brother Marwan ElShorbagy in the last eight.

In a repeat of their 2017 World Championship final clash - where Mohamed won his first and only Worlds title - Marwan managed to turn the tide and stunned his elder brother to knock the favourite out of the competition in five games, setting up a semi-final against Coll.

In that encounter Coll showed the physicality and tenacity that has taken him to No.4 in the World as he twice came from one-game down to overcame the threat of ElShorbagy and book his place in the final - becoming the first male New Zealander to make it to the World Championship final since Ross Norman in 1986.

Momen meanwhile fought back from one game down to take out Germany's Simon Rösner and set up a final with Coll.

With the title on the line, Momen looked to have learned from his experienced losing to Farag in the showpiece match the year before, and started strongly to put Coll on the back foot from the off.

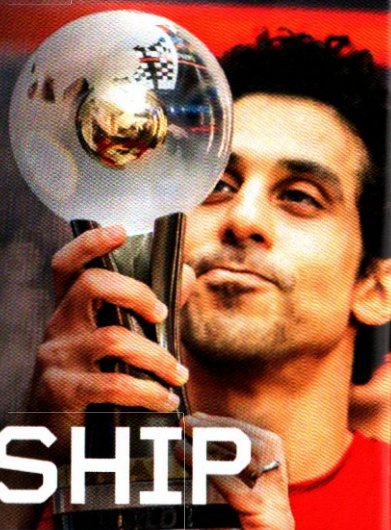
Taking advantage of a tiring Coll, Momen went from strength-to-strength to see out the win and secure the 2019-20 PSA Men's World Championship title - a victory that not only saw him win the coveted event for the first time but

also saw Momen and wife Raneem El Welily become the first married couple in squash history to win the World Championship - an achievement later recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records.

"If I tell you how many times I imagined making this speech my whole life, it's countless, and now I just don't know what to say, it's so hard to digest," said Momen after winning his 7th PSA Tour title.

"I just worked so hard for this. For years, I've been trying and trying, I came up this close but then it didn't happen for me. I haven't won a Platinum event and the first major I ever win gets to be the World Championship, it's unbelievable.

"It has been a childhood dream of mine to become the World Champion at some point. I am 31 now, and I was wondering whether I would have the opportunity to do it, so to be able to do it at this age and to still feel that I can give it my all for a few more years is just unbelievable."



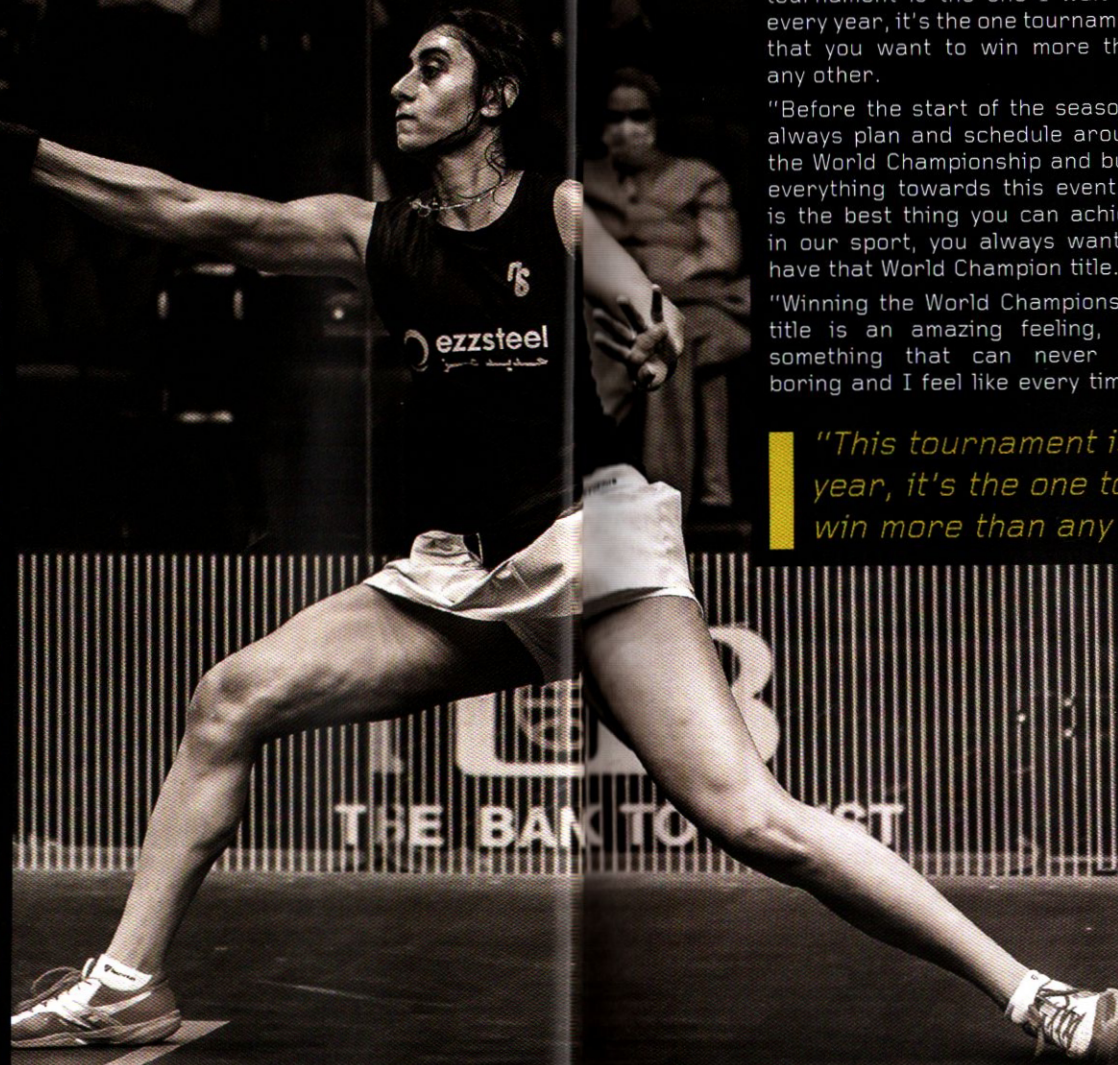


# SHERBINI

## SIGHTING FIVE

On the opening day of the 2019-20 PSA Women's World Championship, Egypt's Nour El Sherbini had not played a competitive match in almost five months, yet the mercurially gifted Alexandria-based player prevailed on home soil and comes into this week's PSA World Championship in Chicago aiming to win the sport's most coveted title for a third consecutive time.

In front of the Pyramids of Giza, which provided the backdrop to the Women's World Championship for the first time, El Sherbini defied the form book and her main title foes as she blitzed through the draw before dispatching Raneem El Welily in the showpiece event to win what was her fourth World Championship title in all.



Aged just 25, she now returns to the city where she won her third title - at the 2018-19 tournament - as the firm favourite to claim a fifth title, a feat that would see her go level with Sarah Fitz-Gerald in second place in the all-time World Championship winner list, with only Nicol David's incredible 8 titles left to conquer.

"I'm really excited to be going to Chicago," said El Sherbini. "This tournament is the one I wait for every year, it's the one tournament that you want to win more than any other."

"Before the start of the season I always plan and schedule around the World Championship and build everything towards this event. It is the best thing you can achieve in our sport, you always want to have that World Champion title."

"Winning the World Championship title is an amazing feeling, it's something that can never get boring and I feel like every time I

have won, there has been a different story - which makes each one special and unique.

"But I always try not to place any pressure on myself. I just try to relax and enjoy my squash. I have to forget about all of the last four wins and just concentrate on each match and start this tournament as though the last four or five years haven't happened."

Competing in Cairo last time out, El Sherbini went into the event as an unknown quantity having been ruled out of the entire season prior to the tournament due to injury. In her absence Nour El Tayeb, Raneem El Welily and Nouran Gohar had shared the first three major events of the year and El Sherbini admits she was far from confident prior to the event.

"It was hard preparing for the event," she said.

"They had been playing, and playing against each other, and each of them had already won a

*"This tournament is the one I wait for every year, it's the one tournament that you want to win more than any other."*

tournament. So they were beating each other in big finals and they were all in good form and I was struggling with an injury and I only decided to play the tournament around three weeks before it started.

"I had to decide whether or not to have surgery on my knee, but I just wanted to play the Worlds and see what happens. I had to change my training, I had to completely change my plans, so going into the tournament I wasn't confident in my squash and I wasn't sure how my knee would react or how I would feel."

"Nour, Nouran and Raneem were in good form, they were fit, but I had to not think about them and



just see what would happen. And I'm a slow starter as well so I just focused on starting gently and seeing what would happen."

While she may have held inner doubts, a routine dispatching of England's Rachael Chadwick followed by comprehensive wins over Hollie Naughton of Canada, Joshna Chinappa of India and New Zealand's Joelle King saw El Sherbini through the semi-final stage without the loss of a single game.

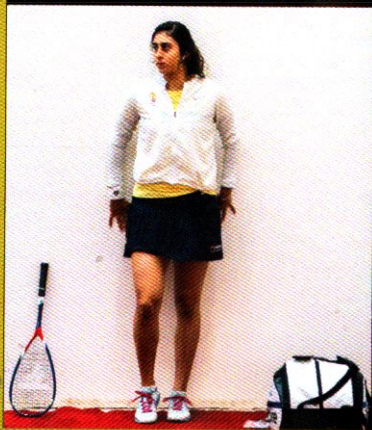
Joining her in the last four were El Welily, Gohar and Hania El Hammamy - the young rising Egyptian star who had knocked France's Camille Serme. Another 3-0 win followed as El Sherbini dispatched El Hammamy to set up the finale with El Welily on what was her 24th birthday.

"The day before the final, after the semi-final, I was having a spasm in my back," she said. "I hadn't trained all week due to the knee injury as well so I wasn't really thinking about the match because there was so much to do to get my body ready.

"It was also my birthday so I had lots of messages coming through, so I was sort of celebrating that and I was also just really happy that I had reached the final, so I was relaxed about the actual match itself.

*"I hadn't trained all week due to the knee injury as well so I wasn't really thinking about the match because there was so much to do to get my body ready."*

"Then when we started, I could see that Raneem was nervous and she made a lot of early errors, so I knew then I had a chance. I was telling myself to just stay relaxed and luckily for me it went my way.



TO TRUST

WORLDTOUR.COM



*"To win in front of the Pyramids in Egypt, one of the most iconic sights in the world, was very, very special."*

"To win in front of the Pyramids in Egypt, one of the most iconic sights in the world, was very, very special."

With the prospect of drawing level with Sarah Fitz-Gerald within sight this week, and Nicol David's title haul looming tantalisingly on the horizon, El Sherbini says she is focused on performing her best once again this week as she seeks to make yet more history in her so far short but bountiful career.

"As an athlete you always want to have goals or targets to look at," said El Sherbini.

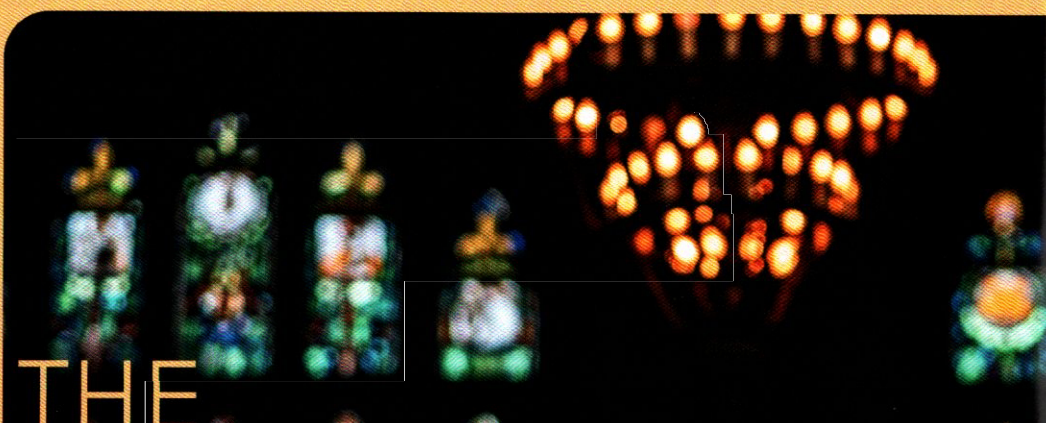
"Like when you're number two, you look at the number one or if you haven't won an event, you look to win that one. Those are the things that help keep you motivated and that you want to achieve.

"What Nicol has done in her career is unbelievable - the numbers are just incredible. I have won the World Championship four times, and I am only halfway to what she has achieved! I still have so much to do, but of course I hope I will be able to achieve it.

"I still have a few years left of playing so I have put that record in my mind, so let's see what happens."







# THE CATHEDRAL HALL WINDOWS OF FREDERIC CLAY BARTLETT

By Steve Bacigalupo



Visitors are often intrigued by the stunning gothic elegance of Cathedral Hall and inquire about the origin and meaning behind the beautiful painted glass windows.

A Charter member of the University Club, Frederic Clay Bartlett was a notable Chicago artist and muralist whose work may still be viewed in a number of Chicago buildings. He was at the same time an astute cosmopolitan art collector who focused on purchasing the works of modern French and Spanish masters from the artists themselves. He graciously donated major works from his personal collection by Picasso, Seurat, Gauguin, Matisse, Cezanne, van Gogh, Rousseau, Toulouse-Lautrec and Utrillo to the Art Institute

of Chicago for all the world to enjoy.

Upon entering the room the windows on your right represent fields of study and American colleges: Literature, Law, Science and Religion. The three windows on your left represent European colleges, American colleges and Commerce. The three windows facing you on the far side of the hall represent Music, British colleges and the Arts. Additionally the alcove windows honour Army and Navy.

At the top of each window there is a sign of the zodiac. In the center lancet of each window group various figures, some with inscriptions that relate to the theme of that particular window group. The windows grow more

opaque at the top to embody more mystery to the oak timbered ceiling. The branches of the trees support shields, roundels, fruits and symbols. The small fences at the base of the trees contain symbolic animals and grotesques. When viewing the coloured designs for the first time Louis Tiffany commented that,

“These are the most beautiful, most fitting, most remarkable stained glass windows done in modern times.”

We would agree.





