Daily Boast

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WSF WORLD JUNIOR Squash CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017 TAURANGA NEW ZEALAND

SUNDAY 23 JULY

A men's final missing both of the top two seeds for the first time in 13 years will bring the 2017 WSF World Junior Squash Championships to a climax tomorrow in New Zealand after Egypt's Marwan Tarek and Frenchman Victor Crouin - both 3/4 seeds - produced stunning semi-final upsets today at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre.

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STRAIGHT DRIVE

By Jim Kayes, Media Manager

Hania El Hammamy, Egypt

TOP SEEDS FALL AS FINALISTS FOUND

It was an emotional win for Marwan Tarek as he knocked out the top seed, fellow Egyptian Youssef Ibrahim at the World Junior Squash Championship in Tauranga.

"I'm extremely happy," Tarek said of the 3-1 win, before revealing just how tough it had been to play against someone he's known most of his 17 years.

"He is like a brother to me. We hang out together, we train together, we belong to the same club, we've been in the national team since 2012 together so it was a hard game for both of us.

"But inside the court there is no friends so I'm happy to get through."

He got through in a tight tussle, winning 13-11, 11-7, 7-11, 12-10 to set up a final against France's Victor Crouin who beat second seed Mohammad Al Sarraj of Jordan in similar fashion, 3-1.

"I'm happy with my performance," Crouin said. "I managed to play the way I have all tournament, with good accuracy and managed to control a lot of the rallies.

"It's the third time we've played and the first time I've beaten him, so I'm delighted with that and I still feel fresh for the final."

FRENCH SUPPORTERS

Crouin is enjoying his first foray outside Europe and loves being in Tauranga.

"It's good to play in a venue like this in front of such a crowd. I'm going to do my best to win this tournament, it would be a first for France and it would be a dream to win this title."

There was far less drama in the women's draw with top seed Hania El Hammamy, from Egypt, making short work of Japan's Satomi Watanabe in straight sets.

"It was three-nil, but it was a tough three-nil," El Hammamy said. "I was glad to take the first, the second went quickly, and I was feeling comfortable in the third, going 10-7 up.

"But she came back well, played some good shots so I was happy to win in three.

"It's going to be an all-Egyptian final, which will be tough. It's harder playing an Egyptian, there's no coaching when we play so you have to do it all yourself," she said.

"And I'll be playing a friend who usually supports me but will be against me, but I'm so pleased to make the final for the first time."

That friend is Rowan El Araby who, like El Hammamy, was convincing in her straight sets win against yet another Egyptian, Amina Yousry.

It means two 16-year-olds will square off in the final - a match that's a repeat of last year's semifinal. El Araby hopes that bodes well as she looks to go one step further than her runner's up medal in Poland last year.

"I'm amazed how I played; I wasn't expecting this," she said. "The games are always so tough against her and it's hard to play against another Egyptian girl. We are teammates and friends and now we have to be competitors. It's difficult."

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BEHIND THE SCENES

The Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre in Tauranga, will hold plenty of world-wide attention on Monday 24th July 2017, when the individual World Junior Squash championship titles are fought out on the glass court.

Courtesy of NZSport.TV, live streaming of the two title deciders will be available throughout the world.

Angela Werder, who is the Event Logistics Manager, walked us through the installation of the glass court and told us about the volunteers at the QEYC who have given up their time to be on duty, at the tournament showcase venue.

The Logistics Manager is first to the QEYC venue each morning as she supervises the glass court practice schedules "With the athletes limited to fifteen minutes on court, the players are queuing up ready to go and make full use of their allocated time on court".

"We have around 20 Crew members, rostered on duty at Youth Centre during the tournament, with the first point of contact being the front desk volunteers. They welcome everyone to the venue, take the gold coin donation and answer requests for information. I have been impressed that many of the blue shirt volunteers don't come from a squash background, but are happy to give their time, to make the World Juniors remembered forever by the visitors to our city.

"Inside the venue are Crew members updating the draws board as the players progress through the draw. The Court Kids are young players aged between 11 and 15 years, kept busy during games, wiping down the floor and glass front between games".

Adjacent to the court is the media centre where Gareth and his team from NZSportTV, along with the volunteer commentators who call the action during the live screening, are stationed. Also situated in the media centre are the Bay Venue team members looking after the sound and lighting systems, and a team of photographers.

Ten days out from the start of competition, a major five day logistical exercise took place with the installation of the spectacular glass court. Because of the permanence of the basketball courts within the QEYC, everything had to be carried by hand to the point of the court construction. "The Sport BOP Youth Engagement team were our workhorses in setting up the court". A protective carpet was laid, followed by two layers of plywood and more carpet on top. The complexities of the project saw it take three months to get the signoff from an engineer.

"The World Squash Juniors in Tauranga have received a myriad of support from local businesses, such as Pristine Drycleaners and Alsco Towels who are dry-cleaning the players kits and supplying the towels free of charge each day. PaknSave Tauriko has also come on board by way of providing food and drink for the VIP lounge".

PROFILE

Angela Werder, Event Logistics Manager

Angela and daughters Monika, Virginija and Indrea

Angela closed the tour of the QEYC glass court setup by saying "The whole city has got behind the World Junior Squash championships, to make it an outstanding spectacle that will be long remembered by our visitors who have travelled from throughout the globe, to be with us in Tauranga".

So far we've had 74,000 hits on the livestream tuning in from all over the world! Our team are working hard behind the scenes ensuring a first-class production.

RESULTS

DAY 5 23 JULY

MEN'S SEMI FINALS

[3/4] **Marwan Tarek** (EGY) 3-1 [1] Youssef Ibrahim (EGY) 13/11, 11/7. 7/11, 12/10 (58m)

[3/4] **Victor Crouin** (FRA) 3-1 [2] Mohammad Al Sarraj (JOR) 11/6, 8/11, 11/6, 11/6 (52m)

WOMEN'S SEMI FINALS

[1] **Hania El Hammamy** (EGY) 3-0 [5/8] Satomi Watanabe (JPN) 12/10, 11/4, 12/10 (32m)

[3/4] **Rowan Reda Araby** (EGY) 3-0 [5/8] Amina Yousry (EGY) 11/7, 11/7, 11/5 (27m)

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THE FANS

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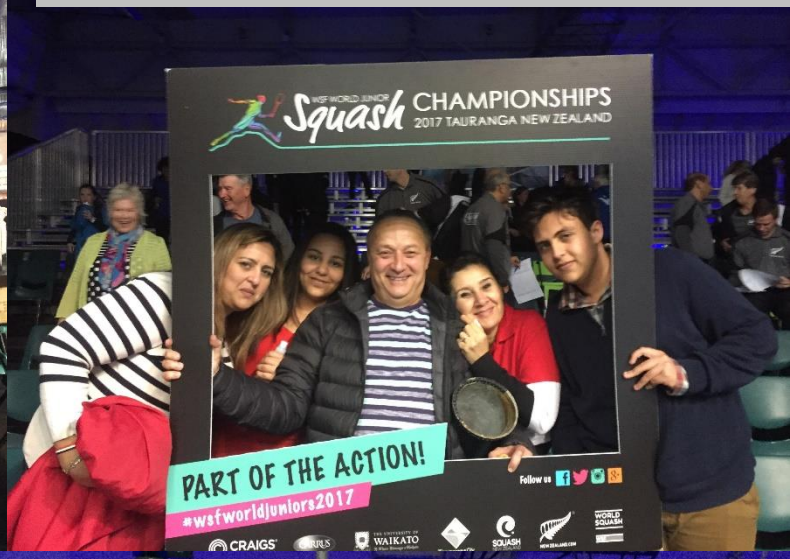

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NZ JUNIOR CLASSIC

A Kiwi Taster for our Juniors

***Kelly Cox**, President Mount Squash Club and **Helen Taylor**, President Te Puke Squash Club*

ASPIRING YOUNG ATHLETES

The NZ Junior Classic Tournament (an unsanctioned event) has been running over the past few days including athletes from New Zealand, Australia, USA and Pakistan. The tournament was offered to give MORE junior squash players the opportunity to experience the World Junior Squash Champs atmosphere.

Open to all international and New Zealand juniors not competing in the main Championship event, the tournament has been hosted by the Mount Squash Club and Te Puke Squash Club. Congratulations to the 100 players that entered and to all Club members, supporters and the local community who volunteered to help run the event.

The Mount Squash, Te Puke Squash and Devoy Squash Clubs have a proud history of hosting great events which are always well attended, coupled with great hospitality and a track record of going the extra mile to ensure everyone has a good time.

***Zoe Dykzeul**, Junior Women's Division 1 Winner*

***Temwa Chileshe**, Junior Men's Division 1 Winner*

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WSF WORLD JUNIOR Squash CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017 TAURANGA NEW ZEALAND

Championship Final

QUEEN ELIZABETH YOUTH CENTRE

6.30pm
24 JULY

MARWAN TAREK (EGYPT) [3/4]

VICTOR CROUIN (FRANCE) [3/4]

Watch the livestream www.wsfworldjuniors.com

HEAD TO HEAD

Marwan Tarek (1-0) Victor Crouin

DATE	WINNER	EVENT	CTRY	RND	SCORE (MT-VC)	PSA
Jan 2012	Marwan Tarek	British U13 Junior Open	ENG	r3	11-4, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8 (36m)	N

Hania El Hammamy (4-1) Rowan Reda Araby

DATE	WINNER	EVENT	CTRY	RND	SCORE (HEH-RRA)	PSA
Aug 2016	Rowan Reda Araby	World Junior Championship	POL	sf	8-11, 4-11, 7-11 (46m)	N
Jan 2016	Hania El Hammamy	British U17 Junior Open	ENG	F	4-11, 8-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-5 (49m)	N
Jan 2015	Hania El Hammamy	British U15 Junior Open	ENG	F	11-9, 7-11, 11-7, 14-12 (53m)	N
Jan 2014	Hania El Hammamy	British U15 Junior Open	ENG	sf	9-11, 11-9, 11-1, 11-6 (78m)	N
Jan 2013	Hania El Hammamy	British U13 Junior Open	ENG	F	11-8, 11-5, 11-3 (19m)	N

WSF WORLD JUNIOR Squash CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017 TAURANGA NEW ZEALAND

Championship Final

QUEEN ELIZABETH YOUTH CENTRE

5.30pm
24 JULY

HANIA EL HAMMAMY (EGYPT) [1]

ROWAN REDA ARABY (EGYPT) [3/4]

Watch the livestream www.wsfworldjuniors.com