

From: Hannah Davies

Women's World Junior Squash Championships – 20 / 30 July 2011

Harvard University, Boston, USA

The Individual World Championship matches were completed with **Nour el Tayeb** [Egypt] winning the title beating her compatriot Nour el Shebinni 3-1 in the final. I think it is likely that we have seen the future World No1 Women's squash player - both finalists are way ahead of the other players here.

In the Teams competition, we are in pools comprising 4 teams, with **Wales** seeded 10 and in the same pool as USA (2) Australia (7) and Guyana (13/16).

Wales played **Australia** first and secured an unexpected 3-0 win. We thought this match would be a lot closer but the three girls Tesni Evans, Hannah Davies & Fiona Murphy all played extremely well - a bit nervous to start but completed a fine win.

An excellent start but then we play the **USA** next with two of their players in the top 30 Wispa rankings ! There was no pressure put on the Welsh team but we were all told by coach Andrew to go out and enjoy ourselves. Fiona was rested and Jenny Haley came in at No. 3 and played well. Tez & Hannah both enjoyed the experience against these highly ranked players and were not outclassed .

To progress through to the Quarter Finals and improve their World seeding, Wales next played the unknown **Guyana**. The Welsh put their full side out and again won the match 3 - 0 with all the players doing what was expected of them.

Through to the Quarter Finals - now for the World Champions and No.1 seeded team, **Egypt**. Our match is on the main glass court with the National Anthems played before the match -this is a proud moment for all the welsh girls.

Tez was up against the No.1 seed and World Champion, Tayeb and did play some great squash. But no matter what she did, the Egyptian player controlled the game and won 3-0. Next on was Fiona against Kanzy at No.3, who the girls know well. With much hard hitting in this match, Fiona got the crowd going as she hit a fantastic forehand volley nick that was even applauded by the Egyptians ! However, this was short lived as Kanzy was to play a similar shot later before taking the match. Match score 2 -0 to Egypt.

Next up for Wales was Hannah in a best of three match against Nouran El Torky. From the start, Hannah played with confidence and took the first game by going for winners - the Egyptian girl did not expect this ! She then upped her game and took the next two in a closely contested match. The Welsh girls deserve much credit in the way in which they took the game to the Egyptians - the experience they have gained against such top quality opposition will hold them in good stead for the future.

We next played for the 5/8 Semi Finals and drawn against **Malaysia**. We knew this would be a tough one but felt we were capable of beating them. Regardless of the outcome of our Malaysian match, Wales have already bettered their seeding. Tez beat her opponent, Tan Yan Xin 3-1 while Hannah and Fiona both lost their matches 3-0.

In a play-off for Seventh place, Wales played **New Zealand** with Fiona on first she lost her match 3-0, then Tez fought a hard match but lost 3-1. This meant that Hannah's match was a dead rubber and not played.

Wales completed their World Championships in Eight place - an excellent tournament and a superb result that we know, with some luck, could have been improved !

Egypt went on to beat our hosts USA by 2-1 to become World Champions, while Hong Kong beat India to take third place.

And finally

Boston was a great place to visit, full of history, friendly people, good food and some great real ales (says Mark). The weather was very hot at minimum 85 degrees. We also took time out to go on a fantastic Whale watching trip and came across a school of approximately 20 strong with their calves - some great pictures taken.

Hannah