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Massachusetts Squash Summer Newsletter 2012

President's Corner

By Nat Lovell, President



2012 started off with a few things I never thought would happen. Ok, maybe not never, but perhaps not so soon. Trinity College saw its 14 year, 252 squash match unbeaten streak come to an end, with not one but two defeats by two different teams this year. Here in Massachusetts, our modest push to get more of our league players to complete their Club Level Referee Certification exam has met with tremendous success. I had hoped the bonus points system might result in a few dozen more players being certified, and even that would be all to the good. Lo and behold, nearly 400 players have passed the exam since October, boosting the percentage of our league players who have become Club Level Referees to 50%. And a staggering 26 teams were awarded bonus points for their efforts! No doubt this progress will lead to safer and more enjoyable matches as our newly minted referees gain experience and confidence behind the glass. Already we are hearing anecdotal evidence of more No Let decisions being made. That is a sure sign of a more confident referee. If you haven't yet taken the exam, simply head over to ma-squash.org and click on the link named Referee Exam in the left column for instructions.

A less glamorous side of the intense competition we enjoy on the squash court seems to recur during playoffs. Occasionally our passion gets the best of us and we might bark out a few words or test the durability of the bumper strip of our racquet on the court wall...actions we certainly regret in quieter moments after the match is over. And while no formal hearing has been held in regard to any of these incidents, the procedure is in place and sanctions as strong as expulsion from league play are possible. Our MA Squash website features the Conduct Report Form just

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Call for Web Design Help

A redesign of the MA Squash website is underway and making good progress. We could use help with feedback, testing, and formulating privacy policies. If you are experienced in developing or managing websites and have an interest in helping out, please email psestrich@ma-squash.org

under the Rules of Squash link in the left column of the home page, should the need arise. You will also be seeing more reminders of expected behavior and relevant rules posted around the courts during league and tournament play. So, let's all take a deep breath, count to ten, and keep in mind that we are out here to have fun. Our children are often attending, watching, and absorbing what they see us do on and off court. Respect for our opponent, the referee, and the audience must be our top priority.

Finally (all puns intended), I hope you made it over to the Murr Center at Harvard on April 5th for the MA State Singles Final matches. Over 200 spectators did. The talent we saw competing for the various divisions' trophies was very impressive indeed. Many thanks to Harvard for letting us use their wonderful squash facility again this year. It was a great showcase for our 21 championship matches. Many thanks also to Concord-Acton for hosting the Softball Doubles Championships. A good time was had by all. Congrats to all of our finalists for making their way through some very tough draws!

Our Membership Survey will be sent out soon. Please be sure to complete it and send it in. This is your chance to be heard on any issues that you care about...from scoring to league play to tournament structure. Thanks in advance for your input.

I hope you enjoyed the Annual Meeting, and I will see you around the courts as the Summer League rolls along!

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About Us

Massachusetts Squash ("MA Squash") exists to promote the game of squash in the state. Activities include coordinating fall/spring and summer leagues in the greater Boston area, running an annual statewide sanctioned multi-flight singles softball tournament, running annual softball and doubles tournaments, coordinating 10 annual sanctioned junior tournaments, coordinating two junior leagues of Sunday afternoon round robins for beginner and high school players, sponsorship and partnering with pro tournaments in the area, support for US Squash and its activities by promoting joint membership in the US/MA organizations, squash education via sponsorship or running of annual teaching/rules clinics, and squash communications via a website, 3 annual newsletters, an annual Yearbook, and by periodic emails to 1,250 members and 2,300 friends.

Activities are coordinated entirely by volunteers: a 19-member board, a 16-member Junior Committee, and 90 volunteer league/event coordinators. Operations are supported by a small budget and huge enthusiasm for squash! Spread the word. . . and tell your friends to become members!

Greg Zaff Inducted in to Squash Hall of Fame

By Lenny Bernheimer

On Saturday evening, March 10, a ceremony was held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, in conjunction with the U.S. National Masters Championships. At this ceremony, Greg Zaff was officially inducted into the Squash Hall of Fame. Greg and one other person, Betty Richey, had actually been elected to this great honor a couple years ago, in the Class of 2009, but this ceremony was the public recognition of their signal accomplishment.

The ceremony was part of the Saturday night function for the tournament, and it was attended by well over 200 people. Betty Richey, who was being honored posthumously, was inducted first. Aggie Kurtz, longtime coach of women's squash at Dartmouth, was Betty's introducer, and she related how Betty had started the squash program at Vassar in the early 1930's and coached for many years there. Betty was also the driving force behind the establishment of the women's intercollegiate individual tournament in 1965 and the team tournament in 1973, and helped run both until 1984. A great athlete in her own right, she has also been inducted into the hall of fame of both lacrosse and field hockey.



Greg Zaff

For the introduction of Greg Zaff, Sandy Tierney and I had been asked by Greg to do the honors, and for both of us, it was our honor to have been so selected. Sandy spoke first and

concentrated on the achievements of Greg as founder and executive director of SquashBusters. To demonstrate this achievement, Sandy's comments highlighted in detail a few of the students who have successfully gone through the SquashBusters program, from 6th or 7th grade, through high school, and into and through college. The way in which SquashBusters has changed the lives for the better of hundreds of Boston inner city kids is truly remarkable and heartwarming. Greg has built a wonderful organization that has been helping kids, not just with squash as a great athletic activity, but also with academics, community service and mentoring. SquashBusters has been the model for every other urban squash program that has gotten established in this country, so it is fair to describe Greg as the father of urban squash in the U.S.

My own comments of introduction also mentioned SquashBusters, and particularly the very origins of the program. These origins date back to 1995 when Greg, who had been working for the State in their Housing Department inspecting furnaces (and not particularly enjoying that responsibility) came to the Mass. Squash Executive Board with an idea to start a program that would use squash to help inner city kids. We looked at him like he had two heads, since the combination of squash and the inner city was not particularly apparent. But Mass. Squash had ample resources, and we were very impressed with Greg's energy, sincerity, humility, and particularly his passion. Those who know Greg understand how persuasive he can be. So we gave him some seed money (the grand sum of \$5,000) to write a business plan and get the program started. The rest is history! SquashBusters is now in its 16th year of operation, and it has improved the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of Boston kids and their families.

My comments of introduction also included mention of Greg's own squash playing career, because that career alone would make his inclusion in the Hall of Fame a slam dunk. Greg played #1 in both squash and tennis at Williams College, from where he was graduated in 1984. As a senior, he lost in the finals of the Intercollegiate championships. He then embarked on a career on the WPSA pro tour (it was hardball back then) and Greg became one of the top players on that tour, which in the mid and late 1980's and early 1990's was dominated by greats Mark Talbott, Ned Edwards, John Nimick, Gary Waite, and many of the Khans. Greg's highest ranking was #2, and perhaps his greatest win was in the 1990 Xerox Canadian Open, one of the major events on the schedule, which in that year offered the largest purse of any tournament. In that event, Greg had what might be considered a very good run, for he beat in succession Tom Page, Charlie Khan, John Nimick, Gary Waite, and, in the final, Mark Talbott. Greg was also a terrific doubles player, and he and Doug Lifford won the final match in the inaugural Can-Am Cup in 1996, a match that went to 18-17 in the fifth, and clinched the victory for the U.S.

The induction ceremony concluded with some heartfelt remarks by Greg, during which he thanked many of the people who have supported him during his illustrious career. The entire evening was warm and wonderful, and it is very fitting that Greg receive the honor of being inducted into Squash's Hall of Fame. There he will join 42 other greats, including other Bostonians Henri Salaun and John Nimick, and deceased inductees Harry Cowles, Mohibullah Khan, and Jack Barnaby.

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Tariq Mohammed recognized by US Squash and US Olympic Committee

By Dan Reagan

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US Squash recognized Tariq Mohammed of Concord Academy earlier this month as recipient of the 2011 US Olympic Committee Developmental Coach of the Year honors. By receiving this award, Tariq has also been nominated to be selected as the USOC Coach of the Year among all National Sports Governing Bodies.



Tariq Mohammad

"I am grateful, humbled and honored by the USOC's recognition," said Tariq. "This award is a testament to the bright, inquisitive and imaginative student-athletes at Concord Academy as well as the aspiring squash players who participate in the Kidsquash program. Both groups have challenged me to find new ways of teaching and growing the sport of squash."

Tariq has coached student athletes in the varsity and club squash programs at Concord Academy over the last 5 years, while simultaneously directing Kidsquash, a community-based squash program that encourages wellbeing through sport. His other coaching experiences have included acting as squash instructor at the Commonwealth School and at Phillips Academy Andover, having served as an Associate Coach at Tufts University, and as a coaching assistant at Harvard. Additionally, he has served in various capacities with the New England Interscholastic Squash Association, the College Squash Association, and the World Squash Federation.

Tariq is an accomplished squash player. He was a #1 player on the Bowdoin College team, and co-captained the Bowdoin men's team in 1999 to a national Top 10 finish.

An American citizen, Tariq was born in the United Arab Emirates and schooled in the United Kingdom, India and Saudi Arabia. Tariq earned his Masters in Education with a specialization in coaching at Boston University in 2010.

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It's England v. Egypt at the 3rd Annual "Showdown at Symphony"

By John Nimmick



It will not be the clash of cymbals you hear as four World No. 1 players take to the stage at Boston Symphony Hall on Saturday, September 15, 2012 for "Showdown @ Symphony III." National honors are on the line this year as John Nimmick and Squash Engine, Inc., bring an unprecedented evening of world-class squash featuring the best players England and Egypt have to offer.

"Showdown at Symphony," presented by First Republic Bank, a leading provider of private banking and wealth management services, pits England against Egypt in a team competition.

Current 2012 World No. 1 rivals James Willstrop and Nick Matthew will represent England, while Egypt will put forth squash prodigy Ramy Ashour and four-time World Champion Amr Shabana. With these international touring pros leading their respective nations, either Egypt (2009, 2011) or England (2005, 2007) has won the Men's World Team Championships since 2005. Tickets: information and sales at www.squashshowdown.com.

Collectively, these stars of squash own 87 PSA World Tour titles. Thirty-three-year-old and 2007-08 World No. 1 Shabana is in the lead by one, 25 titles to 24, over his own long standing rival and 2011 World No. 1 Nick Matthew, now thirty-two. The 24-year-old phenom Ashour follows closely with 22 titles, while his 29-year-old tour peer Willstrop owns 16.

John Nimick, founder of Squash Engine and producer of the squash world's iconic Tournament of Champions held in New York City's Grand Central Terminal, explains, "For Showdown III, we've added national pride as an incentive. The two-man teams will play each of their opponents in matches of two, 11-point games with a shootout tiebreaker if a match is tied 1-1. The winning team will be determined by matches won or points won/lost if the matches are tied two apiece."

All competition takes place on a portable, self-contained glass squash court. An additional two feet of flooring is added raise the show court off the flat floor of Symphony Hall, lending more of a "stage" feel to the event. Four-seat Pops tables surround the court and floor guests enjoy a fabulous complimentary menu to further enhance the evening.

Showdown III is presented by First Republic Bank and supported by Brown Brothers Harriman, Dunlop, Joslin Diabetes Center, Lexington Partners, MA Squash and MFS Investments. The charity is SquashBusters (www.squashbusters.org), an after school enrichment program that teaches sport and life skills to Boston's inner city youth.

Nimick concludes, "Showdown has consistently proven to be an exciting night of squash, but the caliber of this year's competitors and the national rivalry they each feel will make this "friendly" a most impressive event. Being the squash town Boston has become, I'm certain guests will not be disappointed."

For tickets and information, please visit www.squashshowdown.com. Sponsorship, Patron and Group packages are available also.

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"Say It Ain't So..." ***2012 Putnam Pro-Am Doubles***

By Tom Poor

"Yes, kid, I'm afraid it is" said originally by Shoeless Joe Jackson and repeated thereafter by each of Sandy Tierney's opponents in the main division of the 2012 Putnam Pro-Am Doubles. For the umpteenth time in the 21 year history of the Pro-Am, Sandy and his professional partner, this year, Hamed Anvari (New York), marched through the East Draw. Oh, there were a few bumps along the way, one game lost in the quarters, and a five game final against Malcolm Davidson & Preston Quick (New York), but few doubted that he would be anything other than #1 at the finish. Sandy's a great player with numerous national titles to his name and seems only to lose in athletic excellence to his son Chris, a member of the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer.

The Putnam Pro-Am Doubles, with a Pro and Pro-Am division, was staged over Martin Luther King week-end. For the second year Putnam Investments was the title sponsor, using their marketing department to take full advantage of the opportunity with signage, publicity and very attractive purple shirts included in packages for amateurs and patrons. Associate sponsorship was provided by Joe Cortes' Tattleaux Management Group, a company specializing in environmental products. The University Club again shone as the host of dinner on Friday, a Sunday brunch and all the creature comforts fitting for professional athletes at the top of their field.

The Pro Doubles Championship and its sister tournament, the Pro-Am Doubles Championship, is a mid-January fixture on the ISDA Professional Doubles Tour. With Putnam, Tattleaux, 63 patrons and 16 amateur players providing financial support for the event, the professionals competed in both divisions for \$34,000 in prize money. A chance to see the top professionals in the world brought out sizeable galleries throughout the weekend. The professionals' power, speed afoot and stunning shots were the stuff of wishful thinking for the rest of us. The finals of both tournaments were played on Sunday with four Pro-Am finals followed by the Professional final. The latter was another dominating performance by Damien Mudge & Ben Gould (both New York) who added to their remarkable 49-1 record with a three game shutout of Manek Mathur (Rye, New York) & Clive Leach (New York), completing the tournament without losing a game.

The Pro-Am draws were considerably tighter. The quarter-finals of the East Draw featured two five game struggles, the closest being Jamie Fagan & Paul Price's (Toronto) 15-14 final game score over Tom Poor & Clive Leach. Also close was the Davidson-Quick victory over John Hailer & Ben Gould, the #1 professional. Only slightly easier was a four game victory by tournament chairman Lenny Bernheimer & Damien Mudge over Tom's son Morgan & Greg Park (Philadelphia). Lenny just turned 70 and is at the top of his age group in national doubles circles. Under siege, he more than held his own on the right wall, hitting some unexpected winners and then stepping aside for Damien to finish the point. Jim Bildner is the only amateur to play in every Pro-Am. He has been carried off the court with a ruptured Achilles, missed business meetings and has been hit several times by refusing to yield position on the forehand rail. Seniority, however, did not help as he & Greg McArthur (Greenwich) lost in four to Tierney-Anvari.

The losers above headed for the North Draw where every match went the full five games. After a five game Saturday morning loss, Hailer & Gould in the afternoon started strongly in taking the first two games from Bildner & McArthur. Then, the handicapping system took hold, providing insurmountable leads and the next two games to the latter team. The fifth started at even with John digging in even more on the right side and a final win at 10. The second pairing was the Poor father-son virtual standoff. Morgan moved to Boston a year ago, leaving the vagabond life of Montana ski patrol in the winter and Vermont park ranger in the summer, and is teaching soccer, squash and tennis at Milton Academy, assisting the Tufts varsity and helping at the Club with junior clinics. His doubles is in the formative stage, all the more frustrating to his father as the teams traded identical scores in the first four games. Sanity returned in the fifth as Clive took over, restoring some sense of order in the family.

This year's tournament welcomed four rookie amateurs, three of whom (Morgan was the fourth) moved into the West Draw as losers of first round matches (call it baptism under fire!). Perhaps the most emotional and exhausted of the class was Mark Baranski who teamed with home pro Dan Roberts to eke out a 15-14 fifth game win over Philip Bullen & Matt Jenson (Charleston, SC), then another 15-13 fifth game win over Steve Quigley and Mathur in the semis before the roof caved in in a finals' loss to Joe Cortes & John Russell (New York). Quigley & Mathur had advanced in five over another rookie, Mark Wolpow, & Will Mariani

(Toronto) despite Mark's steady training sessions beforehand. In the lower half, Malcolm Salter and Mark Chaloner (Grand Cayman) took another five games over Marty Stocklan & Chris Walker (Greenwich) as Marty was not able to hit just one more reverse corner. In the last match, newcomer Mauro Stuparich had his wife and daughter as enthusiastic spectators but they could not add quite enough as he & Jonny Smith (New York) dropped yet another five game struggle to Cortes & Russell. Five of the seven matches in this draw went the distance.

The South Draw featured the West Draw quarter-final losers. Mark Wolpow viewed the loss in the West as a stepping stone and came back in the semis from two games down to even the match against Bullen & Jenson. The last game saw almost every ball up and down the right wall as the two amateurs tried to keep the ball away from the pros and play for a winner or a mistake. Philip has had a bit more experience at this sort of thing and won at 11. Meanwhile, the Walker-Stocklan vs Smith-Stuparich pairing had the same overtones, another right wall concentration and an even closer fifth game finish at 13 in favor of the former. That effort, however, took its toll as Bullen & Jenson cruised in the final to a four game victory.

This year's event was especially successful with Putnam's presence, the addition of rookie amateurs, spirited play and full galleries supplemented by a delicious dinner Friday evening and brunch Sunday. The Pro-Am has increased the interest in doubles in general and in particular, afforded all the chance to see great athletes (the professionals!) in action. The first doubles league began this season which along with events such as this has spurred doubles at the University Club and Boston in general. The new court at the YMCA in Marblehead and with any luck a new court at the Union Boat Club may some day bring another host of new players.



North Draw: Champions - Clive Leach (New York) & Tom Poor;
Finalists - John Hailer & Ben Gould (New York)



East Draw: Champions - Sandy Tierney & Hamid Anvari (Rye);
Finalists - Preston Quick (New York) & Malcolm Davidson



South Draw: Finalists - Chris Walker (Greenwich) & Marty Stocklan;
Champions - Philip Bullen & Matt Jenson (Charleston, SC)



West Draw: Finalists - Dan Roberts (Boston) & Mark Baranski;
Champions - Joe Cortes & John Russell (New York)

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Mass State State Doubles 2011-12

By Tom Poor

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Trailing late in the fourth game, their early-match advantage a distant memory, against a pair of fired-up opponents eager to redeem close losses each had sustained earlier in the evening, top seeds Doug Lifford and Chris Spahr were nevertheless able to conjure up a four-point match-closing run that averted a looming fifth game and sealed a 15-9 15-13 15-17 15-12 victory Monday night in the Massachusetts State Men's A Doubles final against 2007 and 2008 champions Sandy Tierney and Pat Malloy. In so doing in this last, best and longest (100 minutes) match of the night, Lifford and Spahr successfully defended the title they had won in 2011 and finished off in memorable fashion a hectic "Finals Night" during which nine championship teams were crowned (for the most part after closely contested battles) over a seven-hour period on the two superb glass-back-wall doubles court of the University Club Of Boston.

The evening's competition proved particularly rewarding for the host venue's three squash professionals, namely Spahr (and his two precocious offspring), the club's longtime head pro, Dan Roberts, an ISDA pro doubles tour top-25, and 2011 U. S. Hardball singles women's champion Fernanda Rocha, who played in five of the day's eight finals (a ninth, the C Division, had to be awarded by default to Dean Williams and Matt Gibbs, whose scheduled final with Sharon Bradey and Mac Caplan was prevented from happening when Bradey was forced to undergo knee surgery in late April) and went undefeated. In addition to Spahr's A Doubles win with Lifford, he and son Carson, Milton Academy's No. 1 player this past winter as a freshman, defeated Tom Poor and his son Morgan, three games to one, in the Parent/Child final; Roberts and Rocha teamed up to win the Mixed Doubles final in a thrilling five games against 2011 champs Malloy and Rocha's mid-2000's Trinity College teammate Margot Kearney; Rocha and Hope Crosier took a straight-set Women's final at the expense of Harvard senior Nirasha Guruge and Robbin Silver-Grace; and Carson Spahr and his sister Caroline, won a four-game Siblings final over Morgan Poor and Maddie Chai. The remaining three finals saw John Nimick and Andrew Slater add the Massachusetts 50's title to the Canadian Doubles 50's they had earned last month in Toronto with a 3-1 triumph over Tierney and Jamie Fagan, while Poor and Malcolm Davidson prevailed three-love over John Brazilian (coming off recent knee surgery) and Len Bernheimer in the 60's final and Harvard Club President Nick Iselin and his fellow Harvard alumnus John Palfrey took top honors in the B draw by rallying from two games to one down and overtaking Charlie Humber and Amrit Kanwal.

Malloy, who as Trinity College captain in 2004 won the deciding match in a 5-4 Potter Cup final-round win over Harvard before several solid years on the ISDA tour (often with Lifford as his partner), became embroiled in the two most exciting matches of the night. In the Mixed Doubles final, he and Kearney were overpowered in the early going by Roberts's pace and Rocha's athleticism and a series of tight forehand reverse-corners, the last of which finished off the 15-8 opening game. But by mid-second, Malloy, who usually plays the right wall but adapted well to being on the left, had forced his way into the action, doing a lot more roaming to the back right to protect his partner, who for her part proved increasingly able to withstand the balls that Roberts was rocketing in her direction and battling Rocha to a standstill in their frequent rail exchanges along the right wall.

In winning the airtight second and fourth games, Malloy and especially Kearney were the

steadier and more opportunistic team down the stretch, while by contrast Roberts became too eager to hit winners when he got to hit the ball and Rocha committed some end-game errors, most damagingly when she tinned a reverse-corner at 14-all, simultaneous-game-ball to knot the match at a game apiece. But in all three of the games that Roberts/Rocha won, they erupted on swift but substantial surges (to 9-2 in the first game, from 2-all to 11-4 in the third and from 2-all to 8-3 in the fifth) during which their superior firepower created deficits too great for Malloy and Kearney to overcome, though they made a valiant bid to rescue the fifth game, even in the face of some agonizing reversals (one a mis-hit by Rocha that trickled over the tin, another a Malloy forehand drop at 8-12 that would have been a winner had it not caught the very top of the tin), even saving two match-balls-against before Rocha slashed a forehand to perfect length down the right wall to clinch her team's hard-won 15-8 14-15 15-8 13-15 15-11 tally.

Less than two hours later, Malloy was back on court for the Men's A final and the opportunity that it represented for himself and Tierney to avenge last year's straight-game final-round loss to Lifford and Spahr in this event. The latter pairing, displaying a confidence perhaps borne of their triumph in the U. S. National Doubles 45-and-over flight six weeks ago (while Tierney was partnering Sean McDonough to the 55's title), roared out of the gate to first-game margins of 5-1, 10-3 and eventually 15-9, but the following three games were terrific, marked predominantly by lengthy all-court exchanges featuring a greater need for teamwork than doubles usually entails and liberally sprinkled as well by daring shot-making, especially off Tierney's racquet (beginning with the reverse-corner serve-return winner he hit at the immediate outset of the second game, followed by a cross-drop winner on the ensuing point) but occasionally from each of the others as well. An imaginative nick-finding mid-court three-wall from Spahr earned his team a 13-9 advantage and a Tierney tin at 11-13 gave Lifford/Spahr a triple-game-ball, but Lifford then tinned a serve-return and Malloy hit a winning drop shot for 13-14 before a long crosscourt duel between Tierney and Spahr ended with Tierney tinning a perhaps overly ambitious reverse-corner attempt that gave his opponents a two games to love lead.

The third game seesawed evenly along from 8-all, with neither team able to break away until two straight Tierney winners at 12-all made the score 14-12. He then was passed by a Lifford rail and tinned another reverse, necessitating a best-of-five tiebreaker the tone for which was set when Malloy hit a rail too tight to the right wall for Spahr to return. A Lifford tin gave Tierney/Malloy a triple-game-ball, the second point of which they were able to convert when Spahr tried to play a ball into the back wall but was unable to get enough on his swing for his attempt to reach the front.

Buoyed by this turn, Tierney and Malloy jumped out to a 7-3 lead in the fourth game. By this time they appeared to have found a winning game plan, with Tierney letting over-hit Spahr cross-courts go for Malloy to handle off the back wall, thereby enabling Tierney to hold favorable mid-court position, conserve his energy and shoot when the opening arose, including when loose serves were hit in his sector. Four times that game Lifford and Spahr won long and enervating points, only to see their efforts nullified by a single swing of Tierney's racquet on the serve-return. The last two of those instances evened the score first at 10-all and then at 11-all, and when Tierney then knifed another forehand reverse-corner to make the score 12-11, he and Malloy appeared poised to take both that game and a possible-impending fifth as well.

But Lifford began the last rally with a clever shot down the middle, following which Malloy barely tinned a drop shot with his right-wall counterpart Spahr stuck in back. On the 13-12 point that followed, a Lifford cross-court unexpectedly semi-nicked off the back wall and died prematurely before Malloy could react and on match-ball, Malloy tinned a drop shot off the back wall on a play in which he seemed to change his mind in mid-swing, an anticlimactic

conclusion to what was nevertheless a pulsating match in which all four participants (three of whom, it should be remembered, had already played final-round matches earlier that night) performed at a highly praiseworthy level.

There were other notable aspects of Finals Night as well, particularly in the B final, where Iselin and Palfrey showed great resiliency after their deflating overtime losses in both the second and third games, and in the Siblings match, where Maddie Chai and Caroline Spahr matched each other in length and accuracy in their numerous exchanges along the right wall, where Carson Spahr demonstrated the athleticism that has future stardom written all over it, and where Morgan Poor, playing his second match barely an hour after the end of his first, courageously coped with leg cramps that became increasingly immobilizing as that match wore on. His father, Tom Poor, who has won the Massachusetts State A's a record 16 times, expertly ran the entire evening schedule and the record 192 players who entered this year's tournament had the 2011-12 Massachusetts doubles season end on a very high note.

Finals Recap

Men's A: Doug Lifford/Chris Spahr d. Sandy Tierney/Pat Malloy, 15-9 15-13 15-17 15-12

Women's: Hope Crosier/Fernanda Rocha d. Robbin Silver-Grace/Nirasha Guruge, 15-10 15-12 18-15

Mixed: Dan Roberts/Fernanda Rocha d. Pat Malloy/Margot Kearney, 15-16 14-15 15-8 13-15 15-11

50-and-over: John Nimick/Andrew Slater d. Sandy Tierney/Jamie Fagan, 15-6 12-15 15-12 15-11

60-and-over: Tom Poor/Malcolm Davidson d. John Brazilian/Len Bernheimer, 15-8, 7 and 13

Parent/Child: Chris Spahr/Carson Spahr d. Tom Poor/Morgan Poor, 15-3 15-8 12-15 15-6

Siblings: Carson Spahr/Caroline Spahr d. Morgan Poor/Maddie Chai, 11-15 15-11 15-10 15-12

B Division: Nick Iselin/John Palfrey d. Charlie Humber/Amrit Kanwal, 15-6 13-16 13-18 15-8 15-11

C Division: Dean Williams/Matt Gibbs d. Sharon Bradey/Mac Caplan, default (Bradey injury)



2012 State A Doubles: Finalists - Sandy Tierney & Pat Malloy; Champions - Chris Spahr & Doug Lifford

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Mass State Leagues Round-up 2011-12

By Mass League Co-ordinators

Sarah Lemaire (W2.5), Susan Greene (W3.5), Carl Cummings (O2.5), Tom Durkin (O3.0), Michael Belliveau (O3.5), Rip Hastings (O4.0), Gerry Kirschner (O4.5), Girish Venkataramani (O5.0)

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Women's 2.5

With the addition of the Sports Club LA team, it was a fun season; 8 teams is the perfect number! The Harvard Club team led the league most of the year, and to no one's surprise, dominated in the league finals, winning every match. It was the first W2.5 win for the club in more than a decade. Juniors Catherine Walsh and Lily Wain finished the year ranked #1 and 2, and will take their expert games to college and the W3.5 league. Captain Betsy Johnson

and league veterans Phoebe Slanetz, Becky Lingard, and Deb Harrison also contributed to the team's success. In the first round of the playoffs, Cambridge Athletic Club eked out a five-point win over BSC-Waltham, while defending champs Concord-Acton were swept off the Comm Ave courts at Harvard.

SCLA did respectably for a first-year team, and captain Melissa Deland, Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Rebecca Muse-Orlinoff, and former Harvard Club player Jane Wiseman should improve upon this season. The University Club team finished just out of the playoffs. Next year, if they can drag Mimi Coolidge (who was undefeated in league play this year) onto court more often, she would combine with Julia Morgan for a strong 1-2 punch, backed by the always-tough Mary Ni and TonTon Russell.

Julia bounced Mimi out of the league singles championships, but Mimi came back to defeat Becky Lingard in the 50+ final. In the W2.5 final, Debby Carr played Rachel Myers. It was Debby's first tournament title, and Rachel's first appearance in the final. Both dominated their opponents during the early rounds, and I expect we'll see them again in the state finals in the upcoming years.

We finished the year with an awesome league social at T&R. The T&R team arranged for us to have the social room and the court tennis court. After a demo and a feeble attempt to learn the rules, the W2.5 league took to the court. The laughter from the players and the gallery was raucous as we tried to hit those fast-paced balls. Thanks to everyone who gave it a shot! Next year, Lisa Putukian is taking over the reins of the league and will bring some fresh ideas to the league. Have a great summer, and keep playing!

Women's 3.5

Although many Women's 3.5 league stalwarts have departed the Boston area, the four team rosters were lucky to be fleshed out with several newcomers as well as 2.5ers looking for a challenge. Thirty flexible nomad regulars and subs demonstrated great parity throughout the season: 67% of the league matches went to four or five games. At the end, team Dunlop (Pam Larson, Meghan McCarthy, Elizabeth Hughes, Helen Grassi, and Susan Greene) emerged victorious, losing only one team match. Based on individual match wins Wilson narrowly squeaked by Prince for second place, followed by Harrow in fourth.

Many thanks to the Harvard Club, Cross Courts, T&R, Harvard's Murr Center, University Club, Concord Acton, MIT and BRC for graciously hosting the roving league. Captains Beth Collins, Allie Rottkamp and Chrisy Jones must be commended for their abundant patience and adaptability. As usual, highlights of the season also occurred off the court with the holiday party (including its extremely amusing gift swap) and the end of season round robin with accompanying feast, all organized - and cooked - by unofficial social chairs, Betsy Hargreaves and Kara Kardon.

Throughout the season all matches were impressively played in the spirit of collegial competition. We look forward to even more participants next year, so get in touch if you'd like to play!

Open 2.5

The Open 2.5 league had twelve teams, ranging from Marblehead and Andover to Milton and

points in between. The Lynch/van Otterloo Marblehead YMCA and Sports Club/LA each had two teams in the league. The L/vO "Sons of Eyk" did well, finishing fourth, but the (presumably younger and sprier) L/vO "Grandsons of Eyk" did even better, going practically undefeated to finish in first place. (Their only loss was to the pesky Referee Exam team and they missed that by only one player.) Boston Racquet Club and Union Boat Club tied for second but BRC gained the second seed (and a first round bye) for the playoffs because it had defeated UBC head-to-head. Andover Squash Club and Harvard Club rounded out the six playoff teams. (Referee Exam had finished fifth but was ruled ineligible by the league chair.)

Perennial champion Andover appeared poised to come out of the weeds for another run to the plaque when it defeated the higher-seeded L/vO Sons in the first round but the L/vO Grandsons avenged their elders, defeating Andover 3-1 in the semifinals. Form held on the other side of the draw, where UBC defeated Harvard Club, 3-1 in the first round but was edged by BRC in a fittingly close semifinal, 2 (10, 161)-2 (6, 150).

That set up BRC against the L/vO Grandsons in the final. BRC traveled to Marblehead seeking to do some avenging of its own against the team that had handed them their only loss but the Grandsons would have none of it and were able to complete their undefeated season with a 3-1 victory to become league champions.

It was a great year with very few defaults and the league chair extends his thanks to the players and, especially, the captains for their efforts, enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Open 3.0

It was a great second season for the 'experimental' 3.0 league which expanded to 6 teams, a ten match regular season, and a full playoff schedule. This year's team were Andover Squash Club, Boston Racquet Club, Concord/Acton, Harvard Club of Boston, Newton Squash and Tennis, and Tennis and Racquet Club.

There were some great matches during the season that ended with with Boston Racquet Club and Andover Squash tied in matches won but the BRC edged out Andover in points for the number one seed for the playoffs.

Congrats to Concord/Acton for being the only team in the 3.0 to grab 4 points for getting their entire active roster to pass the referee exam.

The playoffs had Andover taking on Concord/Acton and the BRC vs. Harvard Club. Unfortunately, the night scheduled for the playoffs coincided with one of the few snow storms of the winter. Concord/Acton especially needs to be recognized for battling the weather and the traffic to Andover to keep the playoff schedule on track! Andover took the match and earned their spot in the finals. The second playoff of the night had two Boston teams go up against each other – where there was more rain than snow and a much easier time getting to the match (maybe except for Moe Masoud - who rode his bike to the BRC). In the end the BRC took the Harvard Club to earn their spot on the final.

So it was Andover vs. the BRC for an exciting final match! Exercising their visitor's choice Andover chose PAR 15 for the matches making for some very long matches. Three of the four matches went to 5 games but in the end the Boston Racquet Club took the 3.0 title 3 -1.

Open 3.5

The 3.5 league experienced one its more exciting seasons in recent times. With thirteen teams in the league, the number of playoff teams was increased from four to six. Despite the two additional slots, the playoff battle continued to the final night of the season. Newton Squash & Tennis, admirably captained by Jeff Kolodney, fell one point shy, leaving Boston Racquet Club, Harvard Club, T&R, Maugus Club, Lynch van Otterloo

YMCA, and Cross Courts to push for the championship.

In the first round, Maugus Club, anchored by Rohit Goenka and captained by Guy DeFeis, bested Mike Clyne's Lynch van Otterloo YMCA squad on the first tiebreaker, while T&R's dynamic foursome of Scott Ritter, Ricardo Donoso, Doug O'Brien, and Paul Costello overwhelmed Andy Das's Cross Courts team.

In the semifinals, T&R played Harvard Club in a rematch of an earlier match that ended in an absolute tie. Despite Jack Wain losing his first (and only) match of the year, Harvard Club prevailed on the first tiebreaker to advance to the finals. Waiting was three-time defending champion Boston Racquet Club, which had survived a battle in which Maugus Club had several match balls. With his back literally and figuratively against the wall, Boston Racquet Club's Chris Peters found a way to escape defeat and lead his team into the finals.

In the finals, Captain Peter Klint's Boston Racquet Club broke out to a quick 2-0 lead, with Bryan Goodwin and Jim Bode both winning their respective matches 3-0. The second set of matches featured Harvard Club's dynamic duo of Nima Olumi and Jack Wain. Both were in top form and got Harvard Club equal with 3-0 wins of their own. So the championship would come down to the second tiebreaker. And the winner was...Harvard Club, by TWO POINTS.

Congratulations to Linton Moulding and the entire Harvard Club team for a fantastic season.

Open 4.0

The 4.0s must be the most volatile division in the leagues ... players moving up and down from season to season and the characteristic inconsistency of 4.0 players make for predictably variable results. This year continued the pattern, and for the third year in a row a different pair of teams met in the championship final. Two years ago T&R beat the Harvard Club; last year it was the University Club over BRC; and this year it was the Union Boat Club who ran the table at the end, finishing the season without losing a team match in 2012, and defeating Lynch van Otterloo for the championship 3-1. Evidently UBC captain Jonathan Reifler actually got the crew to practice as a team and even submit to one or two no-racquet sessions with UBC pro Chris Smith ... the discipline was evident in the increasingly patient and smart squash that the entire team play as the season progressed. Congratulations to the Union Boat Club ...! Individual stand-outs: it was tough to dominate at the number one spot, but Ben Daly from UBC and Bijoo George from LvO set the bar pretty high, and the general level of play in the stronger teams has been right at the top of the 4.0 range.

Open 4.5

There were 11 teams in this year's 4.5 league. We picked up teams from Cross Courts and BSC Waltham, offsetting losing teams from Squashbusters and T&R. The new teams proved themselves quite worthy of their place in the league, finishing the regular season in 3rd and 5th places respectively.

In addition to the changes arising from the teams in the leagues, this was a year of significant change in terms of the 4.5 rankings. For the past several years, the top 4 teams in the league were BSC Allston, University Club, Union Boat Club and Milton Academy. Not this year! This year, we saw Concord Acton, Cross Courts and Boston Racket Club rise to keep BSC Allston company at the top of the heap. Unfortunately for everyone else in the league, BSC Allston was showing off a lineup that could not be touched. Congratulations to BSC Allston for being this year's 4.5 regular season and league champions. It

was a well deserved honor and, based on the current Allston lineup, one that could remain in Allston hands for quite some time.

Open 5.0

For a 2nd year in a row, the 5.0 league was run as an experimental league. There were no restrictions on the players regarding playing in other leagues. Looking to find its right spot in the week, the league was scheduled on Tuesday nights; we had 5 teams in all - the two top teams were undoubtedly Concord Acton Squash Club and MIT, the previous year's league finalists. In addition, there was some young energy from the TOG team. Cody Cortes from the young TOG team stunned a lot of league veterans and was ranked at #1. The league finals was played ... again ... between MIT and Concord. Last year, Concord had pulled it off after 4 tense games. This year, MIT had its sweet revenge to clinch the league title. Congratulations to MIT and thanks to all participating teams.

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Mass State Tournament 2012

By Kevin Hollister, Maria Mayorga and David Heather

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Softball Singles

The championship matches for all 21 draws were contested on April 5th at Harvard University's Murr Center, the perfect venue for playing - and watching - squash. A raucous crowd of over 200 spectators was treated to three hours of matches on five courts, featuring great play in all of the Women's, Men's and Open draws. See the photo gallery for some views of the crowd.

More than 500 players participated in this single elimination tournament for more than two months and the finalists were the winners in their respective portions of the draws. It was clear from the level of play on display that the finalists had earned their places in the championships.

Several matches were decided after more than an hour of close play and the winners certainly deserve the title of champion.

Thank you, Harvard University, for hosting this event at the Murr Center.

Many thanks also to the many MA Squash volunteers for administering the draws throughout the tournament and for making finals night a success by organizing, refereeing and otherwise helping to make the evening a memorable one.

Thank you to all tournament participants for playing in the tournament and congratulations to the winners and finalists.

2012 MA Squash Softball Singles Championships							
Final Match Schedule							
Harvard University Murr Center							
Thursday April 5, 2012							
Start times		Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 5	
6:00 P.M.	Draw Referee	Men's 65+ T. Boor	Men's 35+ G. Venkataramani	Women's 3.5 P. Anderson	Women's 40+ D. Raegan	Men's 50+ S. Magruder	
	Players	D. Hogan vs. J. Smith	A. Merchant vs. D. Tedeschi	S. Greene vs. M. Roth	H. Prockop vs. W. Ansdell	R. Brownell vs. W. Bigelow	
	Scores	11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 11-5	6-11, 11-6, 6-11, 11-6, 11-9	11-8, 13-11, 8-11, 3-11, 11-9	11-8, 11-5, 11-9	12-10, 12-10, 11-9	
Approx. 6:45 P.M.	Draw Referee	Open 4.0 R. Hastings	Open 5.0 N. Lovell	Women's 2.5 L. Palyukhin	Women's 30+ T. Boor	Men's 70+ N. Lovell	
	Players	J. Chan vs. I. Walker	D. Funk vs. C. Spahr	R. Meyers vs. D. Carr	B. Velez vs. M. Roth	M. Keating vs. R. Eather	
	Scores	7-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-4	11-3, 11-7, 11-9	11-5, 11-8, 3-11, 11-5	9-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-4	11-9, 12-10, 13-11	
Approx. 7:30 P.M.	Draw Referee	Men's 55+ S. Magruder	Open 3.0 G. Venkataramani	Women's 50+ D. Farinaux-Dumas	Women's 4.5+ W. Ansdell	Men's 45+ B. Mosler	
	Players	S. Thayer vs. B. Douglas	C. Storm vs. J. Plaut	R. Lingard vs. M. Coolidge	H. Prockop vs. F. Rocha	T. Hindermann vs. M. Munkh	
	Scores	12-10, 8-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-2	9-11, 2-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-8	11-5, 11-5, 11-1	11-8, 11-13, 11-7, 11-8	11-8, 7-11, 11-4, 11-9	
Approx. 8:15 P.M.	Draw Referee	Men's 40+ R. Hastings	Open 4.5 M. McElroy	Men's 60+ D. Raegan	Open 3.0 M. Belliveau	Open 2.5 C. Cummings	Open 5.5 N. Lovell
	Players	A. Merchant vs. B. Willwerth	T. Ha-Ngoc vs. W. Bigelow	B. Merrifield vs. D. Hogan	B. Goodwin vs. T. Hinckley	A. Yanishevsky vs. A. Lempereur	D. Sharpin vs. D. Roberts
	Scores	11-8, 6-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-2	11-8, 14-12, 4-11, 13-11	11-7, 11-5, 11-6	11-8, 11-5, 11-3	11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 12-10	11-5, 11-5, 11-3
Many thanks to Harvard University for providing the Murr Center facilities for this MA Squash event							

Schedule and Results

State Softball Doubles

The Softball Doubles Championship (at least in my eyes) was another great success. A total of forty three teams, across three flights was another record for the draw. It has grown twenty percent each year, and even more exciting was the fact that we had a huge increase in the 3.5 flight, with lots of new faces.

A big thank you to Kevin Hollister for doing such a great job of ensuring the draw got adequate attention on our MSRA site, and working with Paul Ansdell to make sure that everyone on the day of the finals were well provided for. It was a great day, and a fantastic turnout, with some thirty odd spectators at Concord Acton on Saturday.

Two of the flights were contested on Saturday, while the 3.5 flight between Bill Vigne & Doug O'Brein, and Cel Kulasekeran & Ian Walker, was a default win to Cel and Ian, with unexpected travel commitments by Bill.

The 4.5 flight was between Rich Schafer & Doug Steinberg, and newcomers Roland Lemay & Mike Wilson. This was always going to be a match of endurance, and the winner was going to be the team that made the least errors. Congratulations to Rich and Doug on winning 3/1.

The 5.5 flight was between Rachid Regragui & Suki Singh (seasoned doubles players in familiar territory), and Dave Tedeschi & Will Bigelow. Try as they may Will, and Dave, while almost taking the match to a fifth game, eventually succumbed to the relentless pace and tight shots, and Rachid and Suki were again our winners.

Thankyou to everybody who entered in making this a fun, hassle free, courteous tournament to run.

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Doubles League

By David Little

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In September 2011, an idea to have an official interclub doubles hardball league was proposed and accepted by the MA Squash Executive Board. Together with Lenny Bernheimer, we created the league that encompasses 4 teams: The University Club, The Harvard Club, The Lynch/van Otterloo YMCA and UBC. Since this is the first year of the league, we instituted B & C divisions that play 12 matches on various Saturday afternoons from November to the end of April.

The league is still in progress with 3 matches left for the season. Currently, LVO YMCA is in first place by three individual games. The winner will be decided by the team with most individual wins (total B and C division wins). Playoffs will take place in the event of a tie.

With nearly 60 individuals that have played at least one match, the league can already be considered a success. The players that have stood out this season with skill and participation include: Jay Epstein, Ian Walker, Colin Brenan, Taylor Milner, Tim DeRosa, Nick Iselin, Mac Caplan, Chuck Kelly, Matt Silver, James Alspaugh, Lori Stump, Dean Williams, Chris Lutes, Gifford Sommerkamp and David Tedeshi.

There is already the demand for an A division next year and for other clubs to participate. However, there are only 4 hardball doubles courts in the greater Boston area and The University Club has two of them. If any club is considering renovations, a doubles court would fill current and future demand for the sport that continues to grow in popularity.

Thanks to Lenny Berheimer, Sharon Bradey, Chris Spahr, Chris Smith, Jay Epstein, Ralph Kusnitz, Matt Silver, Teresa Grasso and Marc Wolpov for helping in the coordination of the league.

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Local Tournaments

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City Cup

By Charlie Humber

On December 3, 2011The University Club hosted a one- day squash tournament against other Boston-based squash clubs that included The Boston Racquets Club, Tennis & Racquet Club, The Union Boat Club and The University Club of Boston. Each club fielded 15 players

consisting of 5 players per team for the 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 levels. The BRC had a lead most of the day by eight or nine matches, while the UClub definitely needed a few more wins to catch up! Fortunately, by midday the score was tied 20- 20 with a remarkable effort by the 4.0 squad.

The 4.5's were the inevitable factor to determine who would be crowned Boston's first ever City Cup Champions. After some grueling defeats and one point tie-breakers the UClubber's were able to come back and win it!

3.5 Team: Steve Laverty, Jay Bride, Schuyler Livingston, Alex Cushman, Alex Plaisted

4.0 Team: Scott Marimow, Matt Gibbs, Chris Lowell, Ed Johnson

4.5 Team: Charlie Humber, Andy Goldfarb, Jamie Harrison, David Shulman, Brent Brec

Congratulations to all the players who've made this inaugural event such a success and big thanks goes out to those who gave their generous time before the tournament to transform the doubles court into a lounge/man cave for spectators and players alike. The Club would also like to recognize Brent Berc as being the mastermind behind the tournament idea and success. Hope to see you all next year!



University Club won the inaugural City Cup

Brattleboro Squash Tournament

By Moss Kahler

Brattleboro RacquetSports' Third Annual Squash Tournament was its biggest and best so

far. Forty-seven squash contestants played sixty-nine matches in best 3 out of five game contests - a total of 247 games were played over two days. Seven of those matches went the distance, ending in a final, exhausting fifth game.

Saturday saw the top three draws play. The 5.0 draw featured the most skilled players who showed their expertise with long, demanding rallies. After losing the first game in the finals, Girish Venkataramani from Boston bested BRI's Gary Gargan, from Harrisville, NH, in the next three to claim the Champion's mantel. In the 4.0 draw Steve O'Brien from Belchertown, MA dropped only the second game in a four game final with Peter Reisfeld of N. Ferrisburgh, VT. In the 3.5's Henry Spindler from Keene squeaked by Moss Kahler in an exciting 5-game semi-final match to then meet and dominate Sean Wadsworth of Concord, NH in three quick games in the final.

On Sunday 13 junior players joined 11 adults and treated everybody to an eye-popping show of squash skills and determination. The results in the junior vs adult matches were even with the juniors winning seven of the fourteen matches. The 3.0 draw final showcased the Cloobek brothers, Ryan and David, from Stamford, CT. Ryan bested his younger brother in three exciting games. The only adult-junior final of the weekend was in the 2.5 draw where Judy Rees of Hanover, NH nearly got upstaged by local junior player, Lynden Bunker, winning in four hard fought games.

Hard play was sustained and rewarded with help from three local businesses, Brueggers, Grafton Village Cheese and Hidden Springs Maple, who donated bagels, cheese and maple syrup. Club members Ruby McAdoo, Karen Duggan, Becky Anderson and Dave Stabler combined their efforts in putting out a smorgasbord of wonderful food and beverages available to players and spectators.



5.0: Girish Venkataramani (Winner), Gary Gargan (Finalist)



4.0: Steve O' Brien (Winner), Peter Reisfeld (Finalist)



3.5: Henry Spindler
(Winner), Sean Wadsworth
(Finalist)



3.0: Ryan Cloobek
(Winner) and David
Cloobek (Finalist)



2.5: Judy Rees (Finalist)
and Lynden Bunker
(Winner)

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Mass Squash Junior Season 2011-12 Review

By Tom Poor

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It wasn't that long ago that the end of the junior squash season coincided with the onset of school vacations in April when thoughts turned to warm spring afternoons, baseball, lacrosse, tennis and plans for the summer. Not so anymore. More summer tournaments than ever have appeared on the US Squash schedule, summer squash camps have grown exponentially and local squash programs have full schedules through the spring and summer. Many juniors now play spring sports but continue in the late afternoons, evenings and on week-ends in the squash courts. Good in the sense that improvement will come more quickly but perhaps care should be taken to not overdo it.

Tournaments

The Boston area was the center for many junior tournaments since last spring. In addition to the five tournaments run by the Mass Squash Junior Committee, Harvard hosted two major events run by US Squash and aided by Mass Squash volunteers: the World Womens Junior Championships in July and the National Junior Open in December. The Worlds, reported in the Fall newsletter, was a major production with 18 teams from across the globe competing. The Nationals included more than 800 players in ten divisions with draws as large as 128.

The Junior Committee this season ran five major tournaments: the Deerfield Gold over Thanksgiving week-end in their new squash center, the Massachusetts Junior Open @ Groton (Gold) over New Year's week-end, the Frank Millet Championships (a US Squash Junior Championship Tour event) in mid-February at Harvard and the Massachusetts State Championships (Gold/Silver) in early March. The SquashBusters Silver event at the beginning of April was hosted at their Northeastern center for the second year. Each of these events had significantly larger entries than the previous year, just another indication of the rapid growth of junior squash.

Rankings

Massachusetts Squash rankings are derived from the national rankings and will be determined following the national Bronze event at the end of April. At least three sanctioned events plus passage of the referees' test are required, and a junior's best four results determine his/her ranking. For the second year, the ranking system will be based on a player's finishing position in a tournament as opposed to whom he/she played as was the case previously. More information on the new system is on the US Squash web site. Virtually everyone who meets the requirements has a chance to be ranked, hence a national/local ranking is always within reach. We are very pleased that so many local juniors are nationally ranked.

Mass National			Mass National		
Ranking	Ranking	Name	Ranking	Ranking	Name
Boys U-11			Girls U-11		
1	11	Myles McIntyre	1	12	Jesse S. Brownell
2	19	Parker S. Walsh	2	15	Katerina Cummings
3	24	Harrison Roberts	3	34	Kendall Walsh
4	35	Douglas A. Conigliaro	4	59	Anna Kurtin
5	38	Jacob Koeppel	5	62	Abigail Roberts
6	53	Jameson J. Mannix	6	66	Emma Supattapone
7	55	Andrew J. Lazor	7	68	Casey Hurt
8	74	Will McElroy	8	77	Dorothea D. Dunne
9	75	Samuel Freed			
10	88	Hari Narayanan			
Boys U-13			Girls U-13		
1	5	Patrick McElroy	1	12	Caroline Spahr
2	12	Nicholas Cummings	2	32	Katherine S. McElroy
3	18	David C. Rubin	3	35	Bunny K. Fox
4	24	Deven S. Karwal	4	40	Sasha Meszoely
5	32	Jason Montima	5	106	Claire Feng
6	33	Shay Wenglin			
7	35	Cole Koeppel			
8	57	Robert Watkins			
9	72	Ishaan George			
10	107	Lucan White			
Boys U-15			Girls U-15		
1	3	Timmy Brownell	1	12	Madeleine P. Chai
2	10	Ethan Shoibet	2	17	Eliza Durham
3	14	Reg Anderson	3	28	Ellie Gozigian
4	15	Blake A. Gilbert-Bono	4	29	Doria Chen
5	28	Jack Bell	5	35	Alexis K. Lazor
6	58	Alexander Kurtin	6	41	Caroline Conway
7	60	Watson Cheek	7	42	Margaret C. Werner
8	64	James Bell	8	43	Grace Connor
9	71	James H.W. Paolella	9	50	Melissa Swann
10	84	Neel Das	10	57	Clarissa Carson-Rose
Boys U-17			Girls U-17		
1	7	Spencer Anton	1	10	Zandra Ho
2	12	Max D Reed	2	12	Addie B. Fulton
3	28	Carson Spahr	3	17	Samantha Chai
4	31	R. Cody Cortes	4	19	Devin Mullaney
5	43	Charles K Woodworth	5	24	Sarah Bell
6	49	Tripp Kaelin	6	35	Tegan E. Treacy
7	51	Charlie Blasberg	7	37	Sarah Zhang
8	64	William M. Shadek	8	39	Marina Hartrick
9	78	Mason Elizondo	9	40	Rebecca Brownell
10	84	Alexander R. Cohen	10	42	Jessica Lee
Boys U-19			Girls U-19		
1	2	Edward B. Columbia	1	18	Caroline Morrad
2	6	Liam W. McClintock	2	32	Zoe B Carey
3	13	Nicholas D. Harrington	3	37	Hunter Sechrest
4	24	Liam T. Quinn	4	38	Abby Giannuzzi
5	29	Mathieu Diab	5	39	Sarah Nelson

Junior League

The Junior League@Murr, sponsored by the Junior Committee, scheduled six sessions of round robin squash for beginner to intermediate players. These sessions were held at Harvard University's Murr Center, on Sundays from 2:00PM to 3:30PM and from 3:30PM to 5:00PM depending on the player's level. The Junior League gives juniors a chance to play others outside their normal group and is a fun, but competitive afternoon of squash, preparing players for competition in US Squash sanctioned tournaments and school matches. All juniors were welcome and were placed in pods by Suzy Schwartz, the League coordinator. This program is very popular and includes 60-85 players on a Sunday afternoon.

The Junior League@ Milton, geared toward older, high school players, ran for the fourth season. Six sessions were held at Milton Academy on Sundays from 3:00PM to 5:00PM under the auspices of Chris Kane, a member of the Admissions Department and coach at Milton Academy. These sessions hosted 20-30 players on each occasion.

Exhibitions and Clinics

Throughout the season the Junior Committee schedules exhibitions, usually when a world class professional is in town. These exhibitions usually include a clinic with attendees. Referee and coaching clinics are also scheduled during the season.

The Showdown @ Symphony on September 13 provided just such an opportunity as four world ranked #1 players plus four local professionals played and taught 40 Mass Squash juniors at the SquashBusters courts. Different strokes, strategies and conditioning exercises were on the menu for every junior, and encouragement from these superb players made for a very memorable afternoon.

Web Site

The Juniors' link on the Massachusetts Squash web site is the current source of information on junior activities. The site features pictures and results from events as well as articles. The Junior Committee can be contacted at juniors@ma-squash.org for further information.

Newsletter

The Junior Committee publishes articles, results, pictures, etc. to some extent in the Massachusetts Squash newsletter but does not have a separate newsletter. The web site is a more efficient and time saving method of communication.

Awards

The mission of the Junior Committee is to provide a means for young players to learn and enjoy the game of squash. For many the challenge of competition is provided in tournaments with rankings and trophies presented in various divisions. Equally, if not more important, is the recognition of Improvement and Sportsmanship with presentations at the Mass Squash annual meeting at the beginning of May. The Junior Committee also honors a deserving girl and boy with a financial camp award to a summer squash camp.

We'd like to thank the many parents and friends who contributed to this year's successful activities. There will be more this summer! As always, we welcome all suggestions and comments.

Massachusetts Squash Junior Committee

Hamid Benbrahim, Lenny Bernheimer, Sharon Bradey, Art Bull, Mike Connor, Sarah Cortes, Chris Kane, Dan Karlin, Abner Kurtin, Kevin McClintock, Libby McClintock, Bill Nimmo, Morgan Poor, Dan Reagan, Jose Rivera, Jon Ross, Suzy Schwartz, Chris Spahr, Tom Poor, Chair



GU 19: Jesse Brownell



BU 11: Myles McIntyre



GU 13: Caroline Spahr



BU 13: Patrick McElroy



GU 15: Madeleine Chai



BU 15: Timmy Brownell



GU 17: Zandra Ho



BU 17: Spencer Anton



GU 19: Caroline Monrad



BU 19: Edward Columbia

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Dover Squash and Fitness: Welcome to the Neighborhood

By Doug Steinberg

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Dover Squash & Fitness is a new state of the art facility that will also be the new home of the Dover Squash Academy. The new venue provides squash lessons, clinics, and summer camps for students. The facility will also host tournaments and exhibition matches for world ranked players.

Dover Squash & Fitness is managed by noted Squash professional Paul Mathieson. As a pro and member of the Squash National Team, Mathieson has thirteen years experience as a coach, has played on six continents and competed in several World Team Championships. He also holds the title of multiple National Championships. He is well known for transforming junior players into collegiate players and many into state and national champions.

Jafri believes the Dover Squash & Fitness Center and Dover Squash Academy is a reflection of his philosophy to offer a total experience of culture and lifestyle for anyone visiting his new facilities. "Squash is an internationally celebrated sport and particularly popular in Pakistan," states Jafri. "As a long-time supporter of the sport and as a player myself, I am pleased to give visitors the chance to experience our culture in another way. Additionally, I am very happy this is the new home of the Dover Squash Academy, where children can learn and appreciate this great sport."

Starting April 16th, the fitness center will also be offering both strength training and yoga. The yoga programs will include Power Yoga and Restorative Flow.

The facility is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and also features men's and women's locker rooms, personal trainers and a lounge and waiting area with free WiFi access. The facility is also available for private functions.

For more information about Dover Squash Academy and Dover Squash & Fitness, visit the website at www.doversquash.com or call (857) 389-0573.



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Mass Squash Board for 2011-12

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