

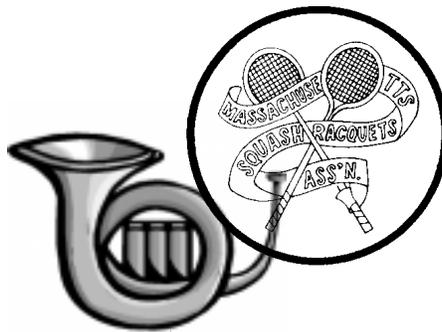
MSRA News

MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Symphony Hall to Host 2001 U.S. Open Squash Championships!

By John Nimick

In a groundbreaking development, the 2001 U.S. Open will become the first sporting event hosted by Boston's historic Symphony Hall. The portable-court tournament, played for the last three years at the Harvard Club, is one of the world's top pro squash tournaments and



attracts all of the world's best male players. The four-day tournament takes place Septem-

ber 13-16 and features floor and balcony seating for 1000+. For details and updates, point your Internet browser to <http://www.squashtalk.com/usopen>.

Patron Packages, which include floor tickets for all sessions, gifts, program recognition and invitations to the Championship Reception, range in price from \$275 to \$1,100, depending on location and number of seats. Patron Packages can be reserved now by calling Melissa Winstanley, toll free, at 877-524-5685.

Individual balcony seats carry ticket prices ranging from \$20 to \$65, depending on location and

Continued on page six

President's Corner

Dear Friends of Squash,
I am very honored to
serve as MSRA President.

When I first picked up a squash racquet 15 years ago I never imagined I'd become so hooked. But as I say to my husband as I dash out on weekends to yet another tournament, "There are much worse things to be addicted to!"

Continued on page ten

**Special
Membership
Renewal Offer:

Free U.S. Open
Tickets!**

See page sixteen

A Note from the Editor

Along with the indispensable MSRA web site (www.ma-squash.org) and occasional e-mail updates, the thrice-yearly *MSRA News* is the primary vehicle for keeping you abreast of what's new and interesting in Massachusetts squash.

Our goal is not only to keep you informed but also to get you excited about what's going on in the local squash world. With that in mind, what would you like to find in this humble publication when you open the new issue each Summer, Fall, and Winter? Are we providing the information you need—about upcoming tournaments, past results, and current rankings? (Bear in mind that news about junior squash in the region is now disseminated separately, in junior squash's own newsletter.) Would you like more news from individual clubs? More detailed reports on local tournaments? More national news relating to our Massachusetts players? Also, with an eye toward the MSRA's modest budget and the high cost of printing and postage, would you be willing to receive *MSRA News* electronically only?

This is your newsletter, so it should reflect what you want. Write to me at MSRANews@aol.com with your comments, criticisms, and article ideas. All suggestions are welcome.

Scott Stossel
editor, *MSRA News*

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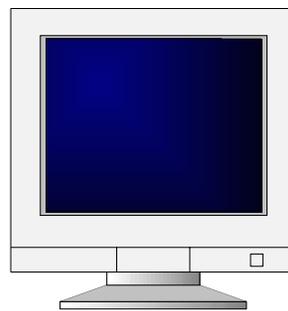
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MSRA Online Survey

Help us serve you better! The MSRA is interested in improving its squash programs, including the leagues, tournaments, and other activities. To get your feedback, we have developed an Internet survey that will take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

As an MSRA member, you should by now have received an email that includes a link to the survey. We ask your support in filling it out by July 10th. All data will be kept strictly confidential and used only on an aggregate basis. If you have not received the link via e-mail, or if you have any questions about the survey, please contact Bry Roskoz at

bry.roskoz@bain.com.

Howe Cup Tournament Comes to Boston

By *Scott Stossel*

Massachusetts squash players and fans are in for a treat this October, as Boston sets out to defend its Howe Cup championship on home turf. The Howe Cup trophy—first awarded in 1955—is to women’s squash what the Stanley Cup is to North American hockey: the ultimate team prize. Last October, Boston sent three teams to the Meadow Hill Athletic Club in Baltimore, Maryland, and came away with championships in the A and B

divisions, and sixth place in a tough C division. **Sharon Bradey**, the teaching pro at the Harvard Club of Boston, won a brutal five-game match over her Philadelphia opponent to seal victory for the A team. And our very own MSRA president, the recently elected **Jeannie Blasberg**, also won a five-game match to help Boston defeat a highly touted Seattle team for the B title.

This year, over the weekend of October 26-28, opposing clubs from across the country will travel to the Bay State and

attempt to wrest the championship from the Boston women. To ensure that the Howe Cup trophy stays in the state for another year—and to help bring the C division championship to Boston this year, as well—turn out to cheer the local women to victory. You can watch them at the tournament’s two venues, the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue and the University Club on St. James Street, both in the Back Bay.

Or, even better, you can sign up to play yourself. There are A,

Continued on page sixteen

MSRA Annual Meeting Recap

by *Linda Watts, Past President*

The Annual Meeting of the MSRA was held on Monday, May 21, at the University Club in Boston. Every year at this meeting, we take care of some administrative business, distribute awards, and, most important, watch some terrific doubles matches at the finals of the MSRA State Doubles championships. (For a detailed report on these matches, see Tom Poor’s article on page four.)

The meeting opened with a review of the highlights of the 2000-2001 year. Last summer, your Executive Committee made

the decision to convert back from rolling membership to a fixed expiration date. Rolling membership proved to be very difficult to administer. We picked our new membership year to be 7/1-6/30. This will allow for members to complete the league and tournament season plus give plenty of time for members to renew prior to the start of the new season in the fall. Memberships will no longer expire at inopportune times. (See the Message from the Membership Coordinator, on page seven, for more details.)

Last summer your Executive Committee studied ways to increase league participation. We

gave strong consideration to the idea of regional league play, dividing the leagues into local divisions, but a vote during league signups was split down the middle. Plus this concept only works with a large league (16 teams or more) and we only had one league (the Open B) that fell into that category. So we proceeded with the usual league format, shortening the number of weeks slightly in order to finish before the spring weather and its associated outdoor commitments kicked in.

In 2000, for the third year in a row, the U.S. Open professional

Continued on page nine

2001 MSRA State Doubles Championships

by Tom Poor

Maybe it was ennui. Maybe it was hubris. For whatever reason, the favorites in the MSRA State Doubles Championships did not live up to expectations. Any contrarian bettor in the crowd would have won big. For the most part, the defending champions displayed an unshakable lethargy while their spirited challengers determinedly wrested their titles in front of a packed gallery.

One team that escaped the doldrums was **Gerry Fineberg** and **Joel Kozol**, the defending 60's champions. They surprised the favored younger Harvard Club duo of **Dick Chute** and **Mike Keating** in three uneventful games by using arcing unreturnable serves and crafty short shots. Keating and Chute survived a five game semifinal against **Dave O'Neal** and **Tim Chilton**; Fineberg and Kozol also had a difficult semifinal against **Dave Murphy** and **Tony Jerauld**.

The C final pitted the nephew-uncle team of **Peter Coffin** and **Tony Jerauld** against defending champions **Jay Hirshberg** and **Adam Simms**. Some C players grumbled that last year's winners should not have been allowed to play, but the tournament directors were doubtful that Hirshberg and Simms



Mixed Doubles Champions: Finalists Sandy Tierney and Jessie Chai; Champions: Greg Zaff and Molly Downer (right).

State 50+ Doubles Champions: Finalists Lenny Bernheimer and Tom Poor; Champions Fran Donlan and Malcolm Davidson (left).

More photos on page eighteen.



would be able to repeat their feat—and the tourney directors proved prescient as Coffin and Jerauld prevailed, as Jerauld gritted his way through four games and two tiebreakers despite his obvious fatigue. The winners faced little resistance on the road to the finals.

Hirshberg and Simms, however, eked out a five game victory over **Doug Carr** and **Tom Little** in the first round before defeating **Peter Laird, Sr.** and **Peter Laird, Jr.** ('96 champions) in straight games in the semifinals.

In the B final **Scott Hartz** and **Tom McCarthy**, the 1999 finalists, outlasted **Drew Hurley** and **Scott Beebe** in three tight games, 15-12, 17-14, 15-11. Hurley had been training for this event all season and was hoping

that Beebe, a two-time B champion, would help him overcome his misfortunes from previous years. Hartz and McCarthy were lucky winners, having survived five game matches against **Kevin Brennan** and **Molly Downer** in the quarterfinals and the Harvard Club duo of **Rob Dewees** and **Joe Cortes** in the semifinals. The 2000 B champions, **Gerry Kirschner** and **Jeff Rodman**, exited the tournament early, courtesy of Dewees and Cortes.

The result of the 50's event was a big surprise to all. **Tom Poor** and **Lenny Bernheimer**, the current World, United States, and Canadian 55's champions, as well as two-time defending State 50's champions, lost to the very fleet

Continued on next page

State Doubles Championships

Continued from previous page

and focused team of **Mac Davidson** and **Fran Donlan**. After losing the first game at 6, Donlan cut down on his errors and volleyed more frequently, keeping Poor deep in the court. Davidson also threw in several of his inscrutable reverse and roll corners. Davidson and Donlan went on to win the next three games, 15-4, 15-9, 15-11. The new champions encountered slight resistance from **Chipp Adams** and **Peter Gordon** in one semifinal; Poor and Bernheimer squeaked by **Ed Serues** and **Dick Chute** in the other semifinal.

Perhaps the most apathetic defending champions of the evening were three-time consecutive Mixed winners **Jessie Chai** and **Sandy Tierney**. In the final they faced **Molly Downer** and **Greg Zaff**, who were exuberant after their five-game semifinal upset of **Annette Andruss** and **Doug Lifford**. Before the match Lifford had warned Chai about Zaff's newly acquired power and speed, but Chai was doubtful of either until dropping the first two games, 15-8, 18-14. Chai and Tierney tightened their game, focused on Downer, and won the next two games, 15-10, 15-5. Chai and Tierney then went up 11-8 in the fifth until the pesky Zaff again interjected himself into the points. Downer and Zaff won the fifth



State 60+ Doubles Champions: Finalists Mike Keating and Dick Chute; Champions Gerry Fineberg and Joel Kozol (right).

game at 13, and both players deservedly earned their first State Mixed title.

Zaff, citing advancing age and exhaustion, asked for 45 minutes to recover before beginning the Open final. The match featured the same teams as in 2000 – four-time and defending champions **Lifford** and **Jamie Fagan** versus **Zaff** and **Derrick Niederman**. Unlike last year Zaff and Niederman took control early and dictated the match. Niederman's high crosscourt lobs and low rails combined with Zaff's anticipation neutralized Lifford's power and Fagan's reverse corners. Zaff and Niederman won 15-10, 15-12, 15-12, celebrating their first title since 1988. They did not drop a game the entire tournament, defeating Davidson and **Bruce Sullivan** in the quarterfinals and **Chris Spahr** and **Ming Tsai** in the semifinals. Lifford and Fagan survived three close games against **John Nimick** and Bernheimer, who had upended

Poor and hired gun **Gary Waite**.

The MVP of the tournament is unquestionably Zaff. A double winner is rare, and he joins the elite group of Poor (1985, 1986, 1994), **Bill Doyle** (1996), and Lifford (1997). Ironically, Zaff, unwilling to be distracted from work, entered the tournament only reluctantly and had to be cajoled into playing. The gallery members, many of whom had SquashBusters connections, were astounded by his resurgence.

The players as always thank **Tom Poor** for organizing and running the tournament. Many thanks also go to **John Nimick**, **Chris Spahr**, and **Ed Serues**, who graciously refereed the matches. Contrary to those articles that bemoan the declining interest in hardball doubles, the game is alive and well in Boston. The winners of this year's tournament should be forewarned – the losers will be back next year, ready and waiting. ▲

Symphony Hall

Continued from page one

session, and will be available starting July 16 also through **Melissa Winstanley** at 877-524-5685.

The quarterfinal session on Friday evening starting at 6:00 PM will be Kids Night. All children under 16 will receive a free t-shirt and there will be fun activities on offer throughout the Hall. A special family food and beverage menu will be available in Symphony Cafe. Individual tickets start at \$30 and will be available as above beginning on July 16. A special College and Prep School Team program will be in place for Saturday night's semifinal session. Call **Martha Soper** at 978-443-6282 for more details.

An added feature of the 2001 US Open will be the USA's first-ever Squash Industry Expo. Representatives, displays, and the latest squash equipment will be on hand throughout the tournament from the likes of Head, Prince, Dunlop and Wilson. Special on-site discounts will be available on all products through the tournament's Official Retailer, The Tennis & Squash Shop.

Come watch history being played in Symphony Hall! Kick off the 2001-2002 season with a bang as the New England squash community gathers for the biggest and best US Open ever. ▲

Tips from the Pros

Sakhi Khan's Squash Tips: Proper Clearing

*By Sakhi Khan
Squash Professional*

Executing shots and clearing are both important to the game of squash. But while many players focus on developing better winners, I suggest a concentrated effort in proper clearing. I state this because I have seen many players hit great shots when not distracted, but whenever a rally gets tight, their shots seem to lose their punch. This is usually caused by a fear of close contact with their opponent. Therefore, proper clearing must take precedence over improving shots.

I have seen many players neglect proper clearing. Some players don't clear at all; others use more energy getting out of their opponent's way rather than hitting a well-executed shot. The players that "overclear," or worry too much about staying away from their opponent, have an untapped potential that can be developed.

Since players that overclear are afraid of getting close to their opponents, they tend to hit shots away from themselves. This player hits mostly crosscourt and

boasts. Usually, these shots become very accurate over time and should be formidable weapons except that the shot selection has become so predictable their opponent has relative ease in anticipating each shot. This makes it easier for your opponent

**For more Tips from
Sakhi Khan, visit
www.khansquash.com**

to beat you. Therefore, overclearing hurts your strategy. Overclearing also depletes stamina a lot faster. This fear must be overcome to become an effective squash player.

Hitting the ball so that contact is avoided with your opponent is easy. But your opponent may not have the fear of close contact. He or she may deliberately welcome a closer exchange of shots. In this scenario the overclearing player is distracted. He or she can't settle into the game. There is a slight hesitation when retrieving shots. Shots are hit into the tin. Lets are called more frequently and your opponent becomes too much to handle. The best remedy for this

Continued on page twelve

A Message from the Membership Coordinator

by *Linda Watts*

Allow me to introduce myself to you in my new role on the MSRA Executive Committee as At Large-Membership Coordinator. Now that my term as president of the association is over, I moved into this position to continue some of the work I had started on membership issues.

First, a point of clarification: the Membership Coordinator should not be confused with the Membership Secretary. Our Membership Secretary, **Janice Troy**, processes membership applications, maintains the MSRA membership database, and keeps our membership info current with the USSRA. My job as Membership Coordinator is to work on various issues such as coordinating membership drives and initiatives, following up on membership problems, and researching membership lapses.

Club-member billing

In the membership drive department, the MSRA Executive Committee is beginning to work with some of the larger squash clubs to determine if it is feasible for clubs to do MSRA membership billing as part of their regular club-member billing. If this can be implemented at some clubs, it will help us to reach new members and also get more people signed

up before the start of the league and tournament season. This would save work for the players and especially for the league chairpeople. More info on this project will be forthcoming as it develops.

Initiatives

Regarding membership initiatives, we have a tremendous offer for folks renewing their membership by August 15. This offer (two tickets for the price of one OR one ticket at half price to the U. S. Open on September 13) is described elsewhere in this newsletter. To take advantage of this incentive offer, use the membership form on page seventeen of this newsletter or respond to the mailing that will come to you from the USSRA in early July.

Fixed renewal date

The biggest membership problem we've been dealing with is that, although we announced last July that the rolling membership was being converted back to a fixed renewal date without proration, the impact of this conversion did not take effect until memberships that expired in spring months were renewed. Several people have called me to find out why they received a membership card with a June 2001 expiration date even though they had just renewed two or three months earlier. Here's why (and bear with me, because this is

kind of complicated): Let's say your membership had an expiration date of 02/01. That means that you paid your last membership fee during January 2000. Under the old rolling membership system, this would mean that your next membership fee would have been due in January 2001. But once we converted back to a fixed renewal date, the logistics of prorating dues (especially since we would have had to calculate the correct prorated amount to send to the USSRA) became too complicated to manage. So rather than bill you in January 2001 for just a few months, we billed you for the full 2000-2001 league season, which covers you up until June 2001. When you renew this summer, you're now covered for a full year, taking you through the 2001-2002 league and tournament season. In other words, if you had been playing leagues and/or tournaments throughout the 2000-2001 season then the MSRA needed your dues during what would have been the current fiscal year (May 1, 2000 - April 30, 2001) to support the programs of the year just past. The logic behind the global expiration date choice of June 30 is that the date is between seasons and will give the right amount of time to get memberships renewed prior to the start of the leagues and tournaments in

Continued on page eight

Tournament Recap: An Event for the Young at Heart

by *Lew Holmes*

“A Mature Event,” an annual tournament for squash players 50 and older, was held for the third time at the Maugus Club in Wellesley, on two new ASB

Membership

Continued from previous page

the fall. Everything should be straightforward from here on out, and we apologize for any momentary confusion this may have caused.

Former members

Finally, I am trying to track down former members to get them back in the MSRA fold if they are still playing in the area. I believe that rolling membership caused members to slip through the cracks and disappear over the last couple of years. If a member didn't renew when his or her membership expired in the middle of the year, he or she kept on rolling right off the membership database. Once members disappeared from the database, they didn't receive further mailings and we lost track of each other. I hope to re-establish contact with these folks and encourage them to rejoin.

If you have any feedback on membership topics, please contact me at 781-397-8899 or lwatts@nefn.com. Thanks for your continued support! ▲

international courts on February 10-11, 2001. There were 23 players in the men's draws for 50+, 60+, and 70+ age groups.

The two top seeds met in the 50+ final: **Jeff Blumstadt** (Gill, MA) vs. **Wayne Hodges** (Amherst, NH). Each had a tough semifinal. Blumstadt beat **Gene O'Malley** (Wellesley, MA): 9-4, 9-5, 9-10, 9-5; Hodges beat **Dan Hogan** (Concord, MA) 3-9, 8-10, 9-5, 9-7, 9-1. Hodges won the final: 9-3, 4-9, 9-6, 9-2, reversing his loss to Blumstadt in the 2000 final. The 50+ consolation was won by **Steve Steinberg** over **Mike Spatola**: 9-5, 9-1, 9-6.

The 60+ draw scheduled three winners of 60+ draws in other 2000-2001 tournaments: **John**

O'Brien (Newton, MA), **Phil Clapp** (Boston, MA), and **Lew Holmes** (Wellesley, MA). In the final of the 60+, Holmes beat Clapp: 9-7, 9-4, 1-9, 9-3. **Doug Lee** beat **George Wilkins** in the consolation final: 3-9, 9-6, 1-9, 9-5, 9-3.

There was a round robin for the five 70+ players. **Lee Engler** (Weston, MA), the current National 70+ Softball Champion beat out **Charlie Butt** of Bowdoin and Harpswell, ME. The other 70+ players were: **MacAllister Brown** (Williamstown, MA), **John Lewis** (West Hartford, CT), and **Ernest Schloemann** (Weston, MA). The organizers hope to add a 45+ Women's draw in 2002, in addition to the Men's 50+, 60+, and 70+ draws. ▲

BdSportsplus presents

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Sharon Bradey (former World #12) Head Coach
Orla Doherty (Squash Director at SquashBusters) Camp Director

Camp philosophy: Our goal is to teach each student how to play the game of squash by using excellent technique, precision shot execution, and efficient movement. Camp enrollment limited to 16.

Camp Dates:

July 8-13 Elite Week
July 15-20 Regular Camp for all levels
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Overnight campers: \$900 Day campers: \$725
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For more information or an application form, e-mail precisionsquash@msn.com.

MSRA Annual Meeting

Continued from page three

squash tournament came to the Harvard Club in Boston. The MSRA supported this event with volunteers. Those members who were able to procure tickets were treated to excellent matches by the top professionals in the world.

During the year, our web site was continually improved. The increased web traffic to the site confirms that members appreciate the currency of the information there. We published three newsletters plus our annual yearbook. We have embarked upon an electronic initiative to deliver our newsletters by e-mail to those who select that option. Regular e-mails are being sent with links to the appropriate pages on our web site to keep our membership better informed. (Thanks to **Paul Chastanet** for his work on the site.)

Our junior program is truly flourishing, thanks to a dedicated and involved junior committee now headed by **Mike Loucks**, who took over the reins from **Jackie Rosenthal** this year. The MSRA is now distributing the Junior Newsletter to all member households in order to keep everyone more informed about the junior program. The annual awards for the junior players were presented on April 29 at the Knockout Cup.

Our treasurer, **Sam Magruder**, reported on our financial status. Although the

picture is good, there is some room for improvement. Memberships are down, as are the number of league teams and the level of tournament participation. We have been working hard to cut expenses—particularly postage and printing costs, which can be reduced through our electronic initiative. Any costs we can cut means more money that we can put back into our programs.

Next, **Fran Donlan**, Men's Tournament Coordinator, **Carl Cummings**, Men's League Coordinator, and **Jeannie Blasberg**, Women's League Coordinator, distributed the state tournament awards, league championship plaques, and individual ranking certificates.

We received additional reports from **Mike Loucks** regarding the Junior Development Committee, **Greg Zaff** from SquashBusters, and **John Nimick** from the U. S. Open Tournament. It was exciting to hear how much the Junior Program has grown. The new facility being built for the SquashBusters in conjunction with Northeastern University is ideal for the expansion of that program. It will provide great opportunities for the "alumni" to stay involved as well as for more kids to come into the program. Once again, SquashBusters is the official charity of the U. S. Open Tourna-

ment, which will be held Sept. 13-16 at Symphony Hall in Boston. (See US Open article on page one for more information.)

Finally, two very special awards were given to two deserving local squash pioneers. **Jackie Rosenthal** received the Ellen Borie Award for her outstanding service to the MSRA Board as leader of the Junior Development program for the past several years. **Greg Zaff** received the President's Award for his exemplary influence on the MSRA squash scene through his visionary program, SquashBusters, which furthers the growth of our local young players on so many levels.

Our thanks to the University Club for hosting the Annual Meeting and State Doubles Championships festivities, as well as the State Singles Open Skill Levels and Age Group championships at the end of April. Our thanks also to the Harvard Club for hosting the State Singles Women's Skill Levels and to the Harvard University Murr Center for hosting the Junior Knockout Cup and Awards Dinner. Finally, our undying gratitude goes to **Tom Poor** for making the arrangements for the Annual Meeting. Next year, we have to be sure to save him some of the excellent food items that he selected. It was inconsiderate of us to eat everything while he was on court! ▲

President's Corner *Continued from page one*

We need to harness this kind of enthusiasm and energy among our members to help the MSRA reach new heights. Our core goals remain expanding our membership and broadening the community of people who play squash. We also aim to promote competition, clinics, and a superior level of play within our region.

For the fourth year in a row, we encourage our entire membership to turn out for the US Open in September—to be held this year in Symphony Hall! Symphony Hall will be a terrific venue; this tournament will be the first sporting event ever to be held in it, and it can accommodate more fans than the Harvard Club, which has been the tournament site for the last three years, so tickets should be available to everyone. I challenge you to bring a friend to the US Open, somebody who has never seen squash played at this high level – I'll bet that anyone you bring gets hooked! Take advantage of our special promotion to buy discounted tickets to the US Open by renewing or becoming a MSRA member. In addition the MSRA will host a hospitality suite at Symphony Hall on that evening for those members who renew or join before August 15, 2001. [You can read about MSRA Night at the US Open, September 13, 2001 on page sixteen].

The US Open is not the only exciting squash event to look forward to in the coming months. After the pro tournament, the MSRA will be sponsoring a series of Rules and Refereeing clinics to educate all of us (beginners, club players, and beyond) and help bring our shared understanding of the rules to a higher level.

Over the weekend of October 26-28, the Women's National Team event—also known as the Howe Cup—will be held in Boston. Last year, when the event was held in Baltimore, Boston's A and B teams won national titles! This year, Boston will seek to retain those titles and to capture the C team and Doubles titles, as well. I encourage women young and old to get involved with this very spirited and inspirational event. Speaking as a thirtysomething mother of

three, competitive squash is like the Fountain of Youth—just what you need to rejuvenate yourself when you start to feel your age. Whether you plan to play, cheer your friends or spouse or daughter, or simply to watch and support the Boston teams—make sure you take advantage of having this event in our city!

Finally, our men's and women's team leagues start up again in late October. With so much going on in the fall, you can hardly afford to put the squash racquet down this summer. Plan on setting your own squash goals this year – and remember, Nationals will be in New Haven in March so map out your training regimen now. It's July—time to think about squash camp. Squash is not just a 9-month sport anymore.

Jeannie Blasberg
MSRA President

Thank you

The Executive Committee of the MSRA wishes to thank the Tennis & Racquet Club on Boylston Street in Boston for its generosity in hosting MSRA board meetings this year. So what if getting to its international court requires climbing a ladder? The T&R is unsurpassed in its warmth and sociability. We're happy to be meeting there.

2001 Doubles Results

The Canadian and U.S. Nationals

By Tom Poor

The MSRA—and in particular the University Club in Boston—have been well represented in two of the major tournaments played so far this season. The large number of players entering these events speaks to the activity and esprit de corps of the many doubles players who play noon, afternoon, and evening at the Club behind the Hancock Building.

The Canadian National Championships were held over the week-end of March 2-4 in Montreal. Twelve Massachusetts

players journeyed north to participate in the various age groups and Open. **Jessie Chai** and partner **Karen Jerome** from Hamilton, Ontario, successfully defended their Women's Open title with a four game victory over a team from Toronto. **Scott Hartz**, playing his first national tournament, teamed with **Jamie Fagan** in the 40's, losing in the first round to the eventual champions from Buffalo, then going all the way to extra points in the fifth game before dropping the finals of the Consolations.

Malcolm Davidson, newly turned 50, paired with national

champion **Gordon Anderson** from Buffalo and was seeded second. They had an excellent win over the Toronto team of **John Boynton** and **Tim Griffin** in the semis, then fell in the finals to the also newly turned 50 team of **Vic Harding** and **Sean McDonough**, also from Toronto. Other newcomers to the national tournament scene were **Chipp Adams** and **Peter Gordon** who won a round before meeting the winners. **Tom Poor** and **Lenny Bernheimer** successfully defended their 55's title, won last year in Vancouver, with a 3-0 defeat of the Toronto team of **Peter Hatcher** and **David Manley**.

Lee Spelke, now an old hand at these tournaments, joined forces with **Hank Shaw** in the 65's, only to meet the eventual winners in the first round. That loss cleared the way for some spirited revelry the rest of the week-end. In the 70's, **Don Boyko** and **Joel Kozol** were seeded second and fell in the finals to the Toronto-based team of **Sam Nisenboim**, who was Don's partner last year, and **David Brown**.

Three weeks later, the U.S. National Championships were hosted by the magnificent Multnomah Athletic Club in

Local Junior Wins Major Award

Lillian Rosenthal, a senior at the Middlesex School in Concord and a member of the Harvard Club, was selected by an overwhelming majority as co-winner of the 2001 DeRoy Sportsmanship Award for her "outstanding sportsmanship and unselfish contribution to US Junior Squash."

Here's what the May issue of *Squash Magazine* had to say about Lillian: "As the No. 1 player on her varsity squad for four straight seasons, she concurrently achieved a top 15 national ranking and reached the quarterfinals of the Girls Under 19 Nationals.

Off court, Rosenthal's energetic spirit and unwavering commitment have been a shining example for her teammates, and a torch by which numerous Boston-area juniors have been led to the junior game." Lillian will be a freshman at Brown University in the fall, where she will try to lead the Bears to the upper echelons of college squash.

Continued on page twelve

2001 Doubles Results

Continued from page eleven

Portland, Oregon. The MAC has 11,200 memberships which include more than 20,00 people, a facility covering a city block and a wide range of different activities. It was the perfect site for this major tournament as well as for social functions, the highlight of which was the induction of six new members—including legendary Harvard coach **Jack Barnaby**—to the Hall of Fame.

Jessie Chai and **Karen Jerome** reached the finals of the Women's Open to meet many-time champions **Demer Holleran**, the

Pennsylvania team coach, and **Alicia McConnell**, a coach at the Olympic Training Site in Colorado Springs. Up 2-1 in games, Chai and Jerome couldn't stop McConnell's resurgence and dropped the final two. **Tom Poor** and **Lenny Bernheimer** fared better and again defended their title won last year in St. Louis with a three game victory in the finals of the 55's.

In the 65's, **Tim Chilton** and **Lee Spelke** won their first round, then fell to the eventual champions from Philadelphia in three.

In the 70's, in perhaps the highlight for the Boston contingent, **Don Boyko** and **Joel Kozol** turned the tables on the team that had hammered them three weeks earlier, Nisenboim and Brown. Joel had the side wall-front working, then changed to lobs when his opponents began to anticipate it. Don looked on in bemusement, then made his required shots. With this 3-1 victory Joel won his first national championship and joins the ranks of Boston champions. ▲

Sakhi Khan

Continued from page six

is to practice the rail drill with a partner.

In this drill you and your partner mimic a rally that is strictly a deep rail hit along the wall. The objective is to get your partner behind you. As both of you fight for position to stay in front, you'll discover that you and your partner are engaged in a circular pattern. Focusing on this movement during the rail exchange is vital. Try to move quickly and smoothly around each other. Don't be nervous about the occasional brush or bump you'll experience. Get used to it. Sometimes a slight

bump or brush gives the both of you a better reference point when striking the ball. Once you start feeling comfortable doing this on one side, change to the other side of the court and repeat the drill. Remember not to hit hard at first.

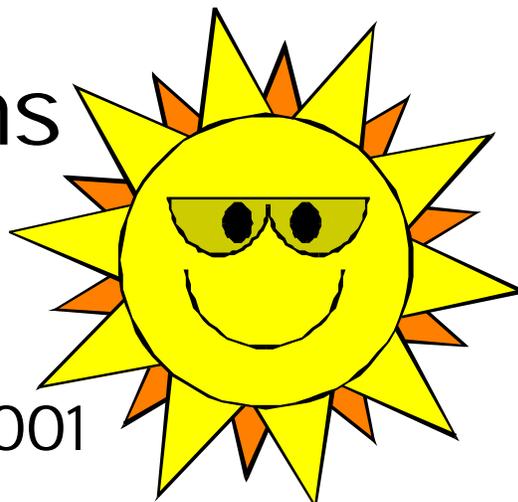
In no time at all, the fear of being close to your opponent will disappear. Furthermore, your rail and length will get better — pulling you away from a crosscourt and boasting game. Just be careful not to get so overconfident and get struck by your partner's swing. If this

happens, your past fears become justified and return. Start slow and work on intensity only after you start feeling more comfortable.

The excitement of squash is best experienced in close combat. Every player should make an effort to play closer to his or her opponent. If you can hear them breathe, you're in a good tactical position. This will undoubtedly lead to better concentration, confidence and balance. My advice is to dive into the thick of things and learn to keep your cool in close-quarter battles for the T. You'll be glad you did! ▲

The Summer Doldrums

A USSRA sanctioned
skill level squash tournament



August 24 -26, 2001

Union Boat House

144 Chestnut Street • Boston, MA 02108

Coed 2.5(D) 3.5(C) 4.5(B) 5.5(A) men's 50+ men's 60+

Ball: Dunlop Double Yellow Dot

Contact: Mark Lewis @ phone 617-720-2252 or fax 617-725-0569

Entry deadline: WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22nd

Cost: \$30 for USSRA members \$40 for non-members

*ALL ENTRANTS GUARANTEED AT LEAST TWO MATCHES AND TOURNAMENT T-SHIRT.

*PRIZES FOR WINNERS AND FINALISTS.

*PLAY WILL START AT 5:00 pm FRIDAY AUGUST 24th

*CALL THURSDAY AUGUST 23rd AFTER 11:00 am FOR PLAYING TIMES.

Make checks payable to Union Boat Club

Return entry to Union Boat Club, 144 Chestnut St., Boston, MA 02108

NAME _____

DIVISION (circle one) 2.5(D) 3.5(C) 4.5(B) 5.5(A) men's 50+ men's 60+

ADDRESS _____

USSRA RATING (if applicable) _____ USSRA # _____

PHONE (work) _____ (home) _____

EMAIL _____

SEEDING INFORMATION _____

Championships

Open League Champions

5.5 (A)
Boston Sports Club

Michael de Forest, Capt.
Ron Rubin
John Higgins
Bill Kaplan
Vivak Nayar

4.5 (B)
University Club

Dan Cassidy, Capt.
Tom Barth
Ric Calvillo
Fran Donlan
Chris Davis
Michael Wang

3.5 (C)
Concord-Acton Squash Club

Tim Arnold, Capt.
Rob Beede
Harold Wingood
Chris Kniker
Christopher Yates

Bruce Dawson
Kevin Hollister
Wade Edwards

2.5 (D)
Andover Racquets Club

Fred Eustis, Capt.
Kurt Gregory
Robert Saunders
Eamon Nash
David Marson
Tom Pawlina
Bob Everett

50+
Boston Racquet Club

Mike MacDonald, Capt.
Ned Brewer
Jack Dane
Digger Donahue
John Grummon
Tom Mellor
Gene O'Malley
Kent Parrot
Norm Smith

Women's League Champions

4.0 (B)
Cambridge Racquet Club

Liz Lambert, Co-Capt.
Dominique Farinaux-Dumas,
Co-Capt.
Alison Amherst
Margo Grossberg
Liz Brecht
Tina Wu
Amanda Bachelder

3.0 (C)
Tennis & Racquet Club

Gretchen Howison, Capt.
Jennifer North
Edie Dunham
Catherine Walden
Holly Shaw
Eileen Deignan
Sarah Kish

Massachusetts State Singles Tournament Champions

Open 5.5 (A)
Winner: Ron Rubin
Finalist: D. Tyler Hindermann

Open 4.5 (B)
Winner: Tom Barth
Finalist: Brian Roberts

Open 3.5 (C)
Winner: David Driscoll
Finalist: Marc Adams

Open 2.5 (D)
Winner: Erik C. Vigsnes
Finalist: David A. Page

35+
Winner: D. Tyler Hindermann
Finalist: Philip Constable

40+
Winner: Philip Constable
Finalist: Chris A. Lutes

45+
Winner: Ron Beck
Finalist: John Connolly

50+
Winner: Malcolm Davidson
Finalist: John Fulham

55+
Winner: Fran Donlan
Finalist: Dan Hogan

60+
Winner: Michael Keating
Finalist: Roy McCauley

Women's 5.0 (A)
Winner: Hope N. Prockop
Finalist: Wendy Ansdell

Women's 4.0 (B)
Winner: Anne Westcott
Finalist: Brenda Lou Sabbag

Women's 3.0 (C)
Winner: Danielle C. Schindler
Finalist: Amanda Bachelder

Women's 35+
Winner: Jeanne Blasberg
Finalist: Molly Downer

Photos on pages fifteen and eighteen.

Championships

Open and Women's Rankings

Open 5.5 (A)

1. Ron Rubin
2. Paul Ansdell
3. Tyler Hindermann
4. Doug Lifford
5. Ali Merchant
6. John Higgins
7. Josh Horwitz
8. Bill Kaplan
9. Patrick Fiscoeder
10. Vivek Nayar

Open 4.5 (B)

1. Mark Dickenson
2. Tom Barth
3. Ken Leng
4. Eric Godes
5. Peter Manuelian
6. Tim Wakeling
7. Brian Roberts
8. Christopher Chan
9. Bob Frazier
10. Wendy Ansdell
11. Ric Calvillo
12. Fran Donlan

Open 3.5 (C)

1. Scott Stossel
2. Steve Hayes
3. Gregg Semprucci
4. Susan Kerr
5. Scudder Sinclair
6. Colin Sullivan
7. David Dali
8. Jim McIlvenny
9. Rob Beede
10. David Shulman
11. Tim Arnold

12. Jerry Stonehouse
13. Marc Adams
14. Biao Wang
15. Mark Israel

Open 2.5 (D)

1. Kurt Gregory
2. Erik Vigsnes
3. David Page
4. Robert Saunders
5. Richard Whitney
6. Brian Gourlie
7. Steven Glick
8. Fred Eustis
9. Andrew Zale
10. Edward Lee
11. Eamon Nash
12. Richard Thomson

50+ League

1. Jay Healy
2. Gene O'Malley
3. Tom Quinn
4. Tom Mellor
5. Sam Magruder
6. Mike Keating

Women's 5.0 (A)

1. Hope Prockop
2. Wendy Ansdell
3. Blair Clark
4. Orla Doherty
5. Robin Silver Grace
6. Hope Crosier
7. Jeannie Blasberg
8. Janie Coolidge
9. Page Callaghan
10. Beth Snell

Women's 4.0 (B)

1. Beth Collins
2. Anne Westcott
3. Allison Amherst
4. Brenda Sabbag
5. Kim Clay
6. Mary Beth Horn
7. Sarah Manoog
8. Margo Grossberg
9. Lisa Evans
10. Stacey Davis
11. Tina Wu
12. Jill Litt
13. Liz Brecht
14. Macie Finklestein
15. Patricia Belden
15. Emily Young

Women's 3.0 (C)

1. Neely Steinberg
2. Michaela Lutz-Guldi
3. Stacey Denenberg
4. Bernadette Dixon
5. Gretchen Howison
6. Athene Von Hirschberg
7. Val Robin
8. Jennifer North
9. Sharon Fields
10. Mimi Tun
11. Maria Mayorga
12. Lisa Wolf
13. Carol Irvin

More photos on page eighteen.



Women's C Champions: Winner Danielle Schindler (left); Finalist Amanda Bachelder



Women's A Champions: Winner: Hope Prockop (right); Finalist Wendy Ansdell



Women B Champions: Winner Anne Westcott (right); Finalist Brenda Lou Sabbag

Howe Cup *Continued from page three*

B, and C divisions—and this year for the first time, there's doubles, too. You can form your own five-woman regional team or you can sign up as an individual (in which case you can try out for a pre-existing squad in need of extra players). All the information (including everything from registration details to parking availability to driving directions and accommodations for folks traveling in from outside the city) you need is on the fantastic Howe Cup web site (set up by **Judith Lamb**), at ma-squash.org/

howecup. Additional contact information is also available below.

So help show that women's squash in New England is unmatched in both its skill and its rabid fan support. See you in October!

Contact Info

**Co-Tournament Director:* Hope MacKay Crosier. phone: 617-723-5579 email:

hcrosier912@aol.com

**Co-Tournament Director:* Orla Doherty. phone: 617-442-8838

or 617-924-3199 email:

orla.doherty@squashbusters.org

**USSRA Women's Regional Representatives for New England.*

Wendy Ansdell. phone: 978-266-9665 email:

Wendyansdell@mindspring.com

Beth Fenwick. phone: 410-961-3844, cell: 203-625-8958 email:

thefen@hotmail.com

**B-Team contact:* Pam Kaneb.

email: plarsonk@hotmail.com

**C-Team contact:* Dominique

Farinaux-Dumas. Phone: 617-491-8344. ▲

Member Promotion: MSRA Night at the U.S. Open

Our membership calendar has changed - ALL Annual Memberships will expire on June 30, 2001. **Renew your MSRA annual membership before August 15, 2001 to be included in MSRA Night at the US Open!**

With each renewal or new membership received by August 15, 2001 you will receive two tickets for the price of one to Opening Night - September 13, 2001 (Or, if you prefer, one ticket for half price). These are premium right side wall floor seats (flip-down theatre style seats -not bleachers!) regularly priced at \$70 each. Not only does this special membership promotion award you TWO tickets for \$70 but it also gets you an invitation to the **MSRA Hospitality Suite** at Symphony Hall. Registration/renewal may be done on the MSRA website or use the renewal form on page seventeen. Checks must be received by August 15 to receive promotional US Open tickets.

Tickets are limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. This offer is also extended to Life Members and people who have renewed prior to seeing this notice. ▲

•MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION •MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION•
 visit our website at www.ma-squash.org

Annual Adult Dues: **\$45** (includes one year membership to USSRA)

Life MSRA Dues: **\$400** (includes one year membership to USSRA in first year only)*

Annual Junior Dues: **\$35** (includes one year membership to USSRA)

Life MSRA/USSRA Dues: **\$1400** (no further dues required)*

*Note: Life membership to MSRA does not include membership to USSRA and vice-versa. Current USSRA annual dues for MSRA Life Members is **\$25**. Current MSRA annual dues for USSRA-only Life Members is **\$20**. **Annual Memberships expire on June 30.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

(H) Tel: _____ (W) Tel: _____

(H) E-mail: _____

(W) E-mail: _____

Please circle the telephone number(s) you would **NOT like published in the directory.*

----- → PLEASE HELP THE MSRA SAVE POSTAGE AND PRINTING COSTS ← -----

Electronic Newsletter Mailing via E-Mail ONLY: YES (Use Home e-mail or Work e-mail)

Postal Newsletter Mailing (*households with 2 or more memberships*):

Please mail 1 copy to household to _____

OR mail 1 copy to each member of household

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Sex: Male USSRA#: _____

Female

Club/School: _____ Rating: _____

Level of Play: Men Pro (6.0) 5.0 (A) 4.0 (B) 3.0 (C) 2.5 (D)

Women Pro (5.5) 4.5 (A) 3.5 (B) 2.5 (C) 2.0 (D)

Mail Application to: **MSRA**
 P.O. Box 1611
 Boston, MA 02205-1611

Checks made payable to: **MSRA**

----- → Special Offer for U. S. Open Tickets ← -----

----- → Half Price Tickets For Renewals by August 15, 2001 ← -----

Payment Enclosed for ____ tickets on Sept. 13, 2001 (2 tickets @ \$70 or 1 ticket @ \$35.)

Photos from Recent MSRA Championship Matches

Doubles



State C Doubles: Finalists: Adam Simms, Jay Hirshberg;
Champions: Pete Coffin, Tony Jerauld.



State Open Doubles: Finalists: Jamie Fagan, Doug Lifford;
Champions: Derrick Niederman and Greg Zaff.



State B Doubles: Finalists: Drew Hurley, Scott Beebe;
Champions: Scott Hartz, Tom McCarthy

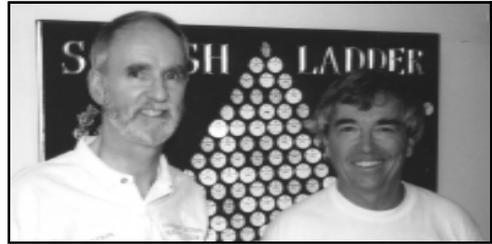
Singles



Men's 40+: Winner:
Phil Constable (right);
Finalist: Chris Lutes

Men's 45+:
Winner: Ron Beck
(right): Finalist:
John Connolly

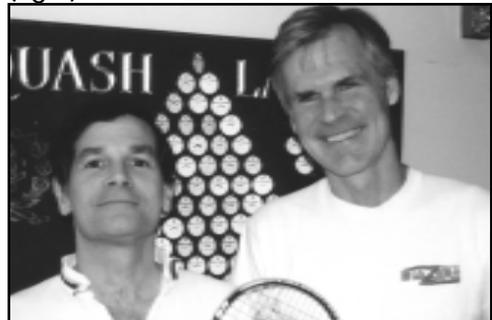
Singles



Men's 60+: Winner: Mike Keating
(right); Finalist: Roy McCauley



Men's B State: Winner: Tom Barth
(right); Finalist: Brian Roberts

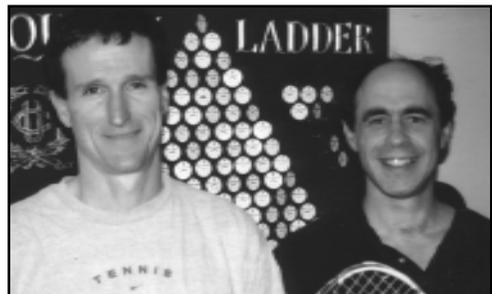


50+ State: Winner: Malcolm Davidson
(left) Finalist John Fulham



Women's 35+: Winner: Jeannie
Blasberg (right); Finalist: Molly Downer

Singles



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MSRA *News*

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Certified

TO:

IN THIS ISSUE

U.S. Open Squash Championships



President's Corner



Annual Meeting Recap



Howe Cup



State Doubles Championship



Tips From The Pros

Membership Coordinator Message



2001 National Doubles Results



Summer Doldrums Entry Form



MSRA at U.S. Open



Membership Opportunity



Executive Committee