

MSRANews

MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy 2003! Although a new calendar year has just begun, we are right in the middle of a great squash season. The MSRA has been very busy this season on both ongoing initiatives and new projects.

First, I would like to mention our web site. If you have not checked out www.ma-squash.org recently—you should definitely see it. The league write-ups are especially entertaining.

Second, Boston was well represented at the Howe Cup in Washington, DC by five strong teams of women, and the Boston B1 team brought home the Championship. For the first time in several years, Boston sent a men's team to the National Men's Team Championships in Hartford this December. We were excited to have both women and men represented at national team championships and hope to have even greater representation next year.

Third, the MSRA was proud to be a part of the US Open at Symphony Hall this fall. We hope to be able to contribute to this great tournament in future years. In addition, the MSRA is investigating our ability to host a women's pro (WISPA) event in Boston in the near future.

Lastly, junior squash in our region continues to grow at a fast pace. Our junior committee has organized a staggering number of events and programs. The efforts and hard work of this committee are tremendous, and we are so pleased with the increased number of juniors among our membership.

I hope you all have a happy 2003 and achieve all your squash goals!!

Jeannie Blasberg
MSRA President

MSRA Women and Men Shine in National Team Tournaments

The Howe Cup

The MSRA sent 25 women to the Howe Cup in Washington, DC last fall during the weekend of October 18–20. The Howe Cup is named after the Howe sisters of Philadelphia, the “first family of U.S. women's squash.” The Howe Cup tournament was first played in 1955 as an inter-city competition among East Coast cities. Over the years, it has become a national competition, with both an inter-city tournament and, starting in 1973, an intercollegiate tournament.

The 2003 Howe Cup was presented by the National Capitol Squash Racquets Association, and matches were played at the Sports Club/LA in Georgetown and at Results/The Gym on Capitol Hill. One of the highlights of the weekend was the Friday night reception on the top floor at the Hart Senate Office Building (famous for one of the anthrax scares), with its beautiful sunset view of the Capitol area. The Saturday dinner was held at the Sequoia restaurant, located aside the Potomac River with a lovely view of the river and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Boston A team (and Howe Cup defending champs) consisted of **Hope Prockop**, Concord-Acton's assistant pro **Wendy Ansdell**, SquashBuster's squash director and team captain **Orla O'Doherty**, Wellesley College squash coach **Shona Kerr**, and the MSRA's own **Jeannie Blasberg**. The A team played well in a round-robin format. When it came to the final day of competition, three teams—Boston, Philadelphia, and Southeast—each had a 3-1 record. Since Boston and Philadelphia had won 14 matches each (the first tie-breaker), the tournament referee had to go to a second tie-breaker (number of games). Philadelphia came out ahead, having won 50 games to Boston's 48 games. So the Boston team finished in second place, with captain O'Doherty going undefeated throughout the tournament.

The Boston B1 team consisted of **Lorraine Sadkowski**, **Kate Lytle**, **Lindsey Bishop**, **Andrea McNeely**, and **Mary Beth Horn**, who served as team captain. The B1 team was undefeated in their draw, against strong teams from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington. The champi-



Boston A player Orla O'Doherty taps a drop shot in the corner against Brenda Grossnickle during early-round Howe Cup competition.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

onship match pitted the Boston B1 team against a strong team from Connecticut, with Boston coming out on top, 3 matches to 2. Lytle, McNeely, and Horn all finished the tournament with undefeated records. The Boston B2 team, **Kara Kardon**, **Wendy Irwin**, **Margo Grossberg**, **Liz Brecht** (captain), and **Naomi Bradshaw**, finished fourth out of fifth in their draw with a 1-3 record. Their one win came over a strong team from Southeast. Wendy Irwin, playing at number two, had the best record on the B2 team, winning two of her four matches.

The Boston C1 team was led by captain, number one player, and Howe Cup organizer extraordinaire **Dominique Farinaux-Dumas**. Other players on the Boston C1 team included **Catherine Kniker**, **Jennifer Moran**, **Bernadette Dixon**, and **Kimberly Song**. The C1 team finished second in their draw with a 2-1 record. On the final afternoon of the tournament, they trounced the Mid-Atlantic team in the 3rd/4th place playoff, 4 matches to 1. Concord-Acton's Jennifer Moran, playing at number three, was undefeated throughout the Cup. The Boston C2 team was ably captained by **Maria Mayorga**, who also played at the number one position. Her teammates included **Jane Wiseman**, **Sarah Lemaire**, **Vicki Vento**, and **Azi Rahbar**. The C2 team won only two individual matches in their draw, but in the 7/8 playoff match against New York's C2 team, they won 2 matches to New York's 3 matches, 8 games to New York's 9. Jane Wiseman finished with the best record of the Boston C2 players, winning two of her four matches.

The Howe Cup players would like to thank the NCSRA for running such a terrific tournament, the MSRA for their financial support, and Wilson for providing team t-shirts.

2002 USSRA 5-Man Team Championships

by Jason Hicks

During my four years here in the US, the National 5-Man Teams is an event that I have never competed in, either due to coaching commitments or to injury. Naturally, I was excited to have the opportunity to captain and play on a Boston team comprising of a squad of six talented players: **Lucky Odeh**, **Rohan Bhappu**, **Briggs Johnson**, **Ian Conway** and **Mike Semprucci**. This annual event, like the women's Howe Cup, brings together squash teams assembled in playing merit order, from all over the country, to compete in a knockout format. Trinity College in Hartford, CT, home of 2002 men's and women's national collegiate champions, hosted the event over the weekend of December 13-15.

Our first-round match saw us matched with a talented although beatable Harvard I team. We were scheduled to play on Trinity's two brand-new exhibition courts constructed of state-of-the-art tinted glass



The Howe Cup-winning B1 team: Back row, L-R: Kate Lytle, Lindsey Bishop, Andrea McNeely. Front row, L-R: Mary Beth Horn, Lorraine Sandowski.

walls. This allows a larger number of people to spectate and makes a great setting for a squash match. One of the down sides is, for the players, it can take a fair degree of adjusting to. Not only are you playing with an all-white squash ball, the walls are blue and semi-transparent. There was no time for our team to practice on the courts earlier in the day, and this was reflected in a disappointing 5-0 loss to Harvard I. Every player had chances to win games from 7-7 or 8-8 situations, but only **Briggs Johnson** managed to extend his opponent to four games.

Friday night's loss dropped us to the 9-16 consolation group and brought us up against Brunswick, last year's B Flight winners. The rigors of my match against Dylan Patterson of Harvard brought about worrying back pain the following morning, forcing my withdrawal from the event. Relegated to the sidelines, I was able to observe the proceedings and coach the team.

Our team's confidence was quickly restored with a comfortable 5-0 win over Brunswick. The best match featured **Lucky Odeh** against nationally ranked Under 19 #2, Parker Sutton. Sutton showed a lot of flair and determination and surprised Lucky by narrowly taking the first game. However, the next three games saw Lucky regain his composure, and he came through strongly to take the match in four games.

The Boston team was now in the last four of our section, so we were guaranteed at least 12th place. Looking at the strength of the remaining teams, our team felt confident that we could go all the way through to take 9th place. The match against Brunswick hadn't sapped too much energy; in fact, it brought valuable practice, and everyone was feeling sharp.

The Junior Wallbangers were our next opponents, a team made up of talented nationally ranked juniors from around the US. **Ian Conway's** match could have gone either way against a very fit opponent, who eventually edged him out in four very tight games. Another comfortable win was recorded with substitute T&R's **Mike Semprucci** playing particularly well in the fifth spot. Our fourth and final match would decide between 9th and 10th place vs. N. California. Our team were still feeling confident despite the 9 a.m. Sunday match time! Again, we scored a comfortable 4-1 win, and a satisfactory ninth place was secured.

The Boston team was left to reflect on what might have been after our first-round match, where we didn't play to our full potential. Next year our chances look promising, with the arrival at The Sports Club/LA of New Zealand National Champion, **Daniel Sharplin**, and the return of **Mark Lewis**. Mark was unable to commit due to the expected arrival of his first child literally on the first day of the tournament. Congratulations to Mark on becoming a first-time dad!

All in all, the event was a great experience as well as great fun and saw a team represent Boston for the first time in several years.

USSRA Level II Coaching Clinic

The USSRA is conducting a Level II coaching clinic in Massachusetts at the Noble and Greenough School in Dedham this year. This is a great opportunity for Massachusetts coaches to improve their skills with nationally known coaches Bill McNally and Mark Allen.

This clinic will take place the weekend of May 31–June 2. The approximate times are as follows:

Friday, May 31	9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 1	9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 2	9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

The cost of the Level II coaching clinic will be \$400 for materials only. (Attendees are responsible for paying for their own meals and lodging.) Participants must have completed Level I coaching training before enrolling in this clinic.

This clinic will cover coaching intermediate to advanced tournament-level players in individual and group sessions. Sport science, on-court drilling, match analysis, off-court training, and planning are some of the exciting areas to be covered.

To register, please e-mail **Bill McNally** at bmcnally1@cox.net or contact the USSRA at office@us-squash.org. Once payment has been received, the course materials will be mailed to all registered participants.

Special thanks to **Doug Eng, Mike Loucks**, and the Noble and Greenough School for bringing this opportunity to Massachusetts.

MSRA \$10 Dues Increase

The upcoming year will bring some changes at the USSRA, our parent body. As a result, USSRA dues, paid by the MSRA on members' behalf, will increase to \$35. (Currently, \$25 of your \$45 annual MSRA membership is paid to the USSRA.) As a result, the MSRA dues will increase by \$10 to cover this increase. This change will take effect when you renew your MSRA membership in July, 2003. The increased dues are envisioned to finance better systems at the USSRA and data accessibility on the web site, as well as increased funding for elite athlete programs at a national level.

The following chart shows how the \$25 that the MSRA sends to the USSRA is spent:

General Operating Expenses	44%
Squash Magazine	40%
Insurance	12%
Utilities and Maintenance	4%

General Operating Expenses include salaries, postage, phone, supplies, computer hardware, and professional fees. Insurance expenses include health, building, and general liability. Utilities and Maintenance expenses include gas, trash removal, electric, and water. The remaining expenses cover the cost of producing Squash Magazine and mailing it to MSRA/USSRA members.



The second-place Boston A team at the Howe Cup (L–R): Jeannie Blasberg, Wendy Ansdell, Shona Kerr, Hope Prockop, Orla O'Doherty.



Members of the Howe Cup B2 team relax after a tough match (L–R): Margo Grossberg, Liz Brecht, and Kara Kardon.

Reminders:

Sign up for State Tournaments (p. 19–20)

Renew Your MSRA Membership Now!

Junior News

2002 Dartmouth Fall Foliage Junior Open

by Joe and Sarah Cortes

MSRA juniors turned in stellar performances at the Dartmouth Fall Foliage tournament, traditionally the early fall season's toughest junior event. This year's edition, held on the gorgeous weekend of October 5-6, inaugurated the newly expanded squash facility at Dartmouth College, with 10 beautiful international courts. Once again, Dartmouth coach **John Power's** marquee event drew juniors from throughout the United States—Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Cincinnati—and Canada.

MSRA juniors passed this early season test with flying colors, winning five of the nine divisions contested: Boys Under 13, Boys Under 15, Boys Under 17, Mixed Under 11 and Girls Under 13. There was one runner-up finish by an MSRA junior, five 3rd place showings, two 5th places and four 6th place awards.

The MSRA results were as follows:

Boys Under 13

Champion: **Charles Gertler**, Harvard Club
3rd Place: **Amory Bennett**, University Club and Milton Academy
6th Place: **Will Sullivan**, Milton Academy

Boys Under 15

Champion: **Mark Froot**, Harvard Club and Belmont Hill School

Boys Under 17

Champion: **Chessin Gertler**, Harvard Club and Belmont Hill School
3rd Place: **Jon Barry**, Milton Academy

Boys Under 19

3rd Place: **William Walter**, Phillips Andover Academy

Mixed Under 11

Champion: **Julian Kirby**, Concord-Acton Squash Club and Fessenden School
3rd Place: **Toby Koekkoek**, HealthPoint Club
6th Place: **James Fulham**, University Club of Boston

Girls Under 13

Champion: **Rhett Nadas**, Concord-Acton Squash Club and Noble and Greenough School
2nd Place: **Casey Cortes**, University Club and Shady Hill School
3rd Place: **Sarah Loucks**, Boston Racquet Club and Southfield School
5th Place: **Alli Rubin**, University Club and Milton Academy

Girls Under 15

5th Place: **Cece Cortes**, University Club and Shady Hill School
6th Place: **Sarah Toomey**

Girls Under 19

6th Place: **Elizabeth Ricker**, Phillips Exeter Academy

2002 Baird S. Haney Open Brooklyn, NY

by Joe and Sarah Cortes

The Baird E. Haney Junior Open, hosted by The Heights Casino Club in Brooklyn, New York, is one of the oldest and most prestigious junior squash tournaments in the United States. It attracts the best juniors from all around the country. This year's edition was an especially important stop on the junior tour, having been designated a "National Team Selection Event" by the USSRA. This designation means the top six players in each division have the inside track to be invited to USA Junior National Team programs and events.

Although the MSRA contingent at the Baird E. Haney was relatively small this year, its success rate was phenomenal. Unfortunately, former National Squad invitees **Chessin Gertler** (Boys Under 17), **Becca Loucks** (Girls Under 17) and **Cece Cortes** (Girls Under 15) were absent due to injuries, so the MSRA was represented by only six juniors. Amazingly, four of the six MSRA players placed in the top six of their age divisions, giving them the leg up on National Squad invitations. These talented players were **Jon Barry** (Boys Under 17), **Casey Cortes** (Girls Under 13), **Mark Froot** (Boys Under 15) and **Spencer Kurn** (Boys Under 17).

Mark Froot turned in the best MSRA performance for the weekend. Mark was crowned champion of the Boys Under 15 division after marching through the draw without the loss of a game. Coming in as the co-third seed, Mark dispatched the top seed **Travis Judson** of Greenwich, CT in three games in the semifinals. Then he defeated the tough second seed **Todd Ruth** of Gladwyne, PA in the tournament finals, 9-7, 9-5, 10-8.

Casey Cortes, playing in her first year in the Girls Under 13, placed fifth in this tournament. Casey lost to top seed and eventual champion **Katie Ballaine** of Brooklyn, NY in the quarterfinals, but she marched through the feed-in consolation draw with the loss of only one game. Casey defeated **Katie Giovinazzo** of Staten Island, NY in the fifth and sixth place playoff, 9-7, 9-6, 9-5.

Jon Barry and **Spencer Kurn** finished in fifth and sixth place, respectively, in the tough Boys Under 17 division. These two players have already played tough tournament matches against each other this season, with Spencer defeating Jon in the finals of the Newport Junior Open and Jon beating Spencer in the Dartmouth Fall Foliage quarterfinals. Ironically, these two players met again early in the main draw of the Baird E. Haney, with Jon winning the match and sending Spencer to the feed-in consolation draw. Jon was, in turn, moved to the feed-in draw by virtue of a quarterfinal loss to the top seed **Francis Johnson** of Charlottesville, VA. Jon and Spencer met yet again in the fifth and sixth place playoff, after some notable wins in the feed-in draw. Jon defeated the co-fifth seed **Drew Blacker** of Summit, NJ, and Spencer defeated the other co-fifth seed **Mark Rapisarda** of Brooklyn, NY along the way. In the end, Jon prevailed over Spencer for the fifth place spot, 6-9, 9-3, 9-3, 9-2.

Congratulations to these MSRA juniors!

Junior News

2002 MSRA Grand Prix

by Barbara Rubin

The first MSRA Grand Prix junior squash tournament was held over the weekend of November 8–10, 2002 on the six international courts of the Noble & Greenough School in Dedham. Tournament directors **Gary and Barbara Rubin** were pleased with 67 entries for this new (and late addition) to the junior squash calendar and are looking forward to even greater participation next year. Under the double consolation draw format developed by the Massachusetts Junior Open and followed in all MSRA-managed junior tournaments, lots of competitive play is guaranteed for all. Every competitor is guaranteed at least three matches, with a full feed-in consolation for all non-round robin draws. Tournament sponsor Black Knight provided long-sleeved shirts to every competitor, sporting a “Born to Boast” logo. Out-of-town competitors and their families enjoyed the accommodations at the Dedham Hilton, and everyone feasted on ample food throughout the three days of play.

The Girls Under 13 draw featured this season's third meeting, and for the second time in a tournament's finals, between **Alli Rubin** and **Sarah Loucks**. The two met in Newport and in Bowdoin; in a tough struggle, Loucks beat Rubin in four games, with two games decided by 10-9 scores. Placing third was **Corey Schafer**, edging out **Margaret Fulham**.

In the Girls Under 15 round robin, **Krissy Rubin** from Boston took first, followed by **Cecilia Haig** in second place.

The Girls Under 17 finals featured a battle between two Milton Academy teammates, with **Julia Rosenthal** topping **Samantha Bendetson**. Third place went to **Cece Cortes**, with a win over fourth place **Rebecca Perlman**.

Julian Kirby from Dover won the mixed Under 11 round robin, besting runner-up **Toby Koekkoek** in the finals. Coming in third place while playing in her first tournament was **Dori Rahbar** from Newton, with a win over **Laura Russell**. **Elliot Green** just edged out **Cameron Rahbar** for fifth place, and, in a real battle for sixth place, **Michael Lillie** topped **James Fulham**. One match that was a highlight of the entire tournament was the five-game, 45-minute first-round battle between **Michael Lillie** and **Cameron Rahbar**, with Rahbar finally winning. It was a delight seeing the hustle and tenacity of both young players. The level of play and the ability to cover the court, which is huge for players 10 and younger, was simply impressive among all of the Under 11 competitors and bodes very well for the future of Massachusetts squash.

First place in the Boys Under 13 draw went to **Barrett Takesian** with a win over **Amory Bennett**. **Will Sullivan** took third with a win over **Sam Haig**, with **Tyler Kopp** edging out **Julian Kirby** in the consolation finals to take fifth place overall.

James Hogan won the Boys Under 15, beating **Johnny Russell** in the finals. On his way to the finals, Hogan had wins over **Andy Macalaster**, the eventual fourth-place finisher, and **Chris Vernick**. Russell beat third-place finisher **Ben Bainbridge** from Hartford, CT in the semi-finals. Winning the consolation finals and taking fifth place was **Sam Landis** with a 3-1 win over **Daniel Lesser**. Winning the Boys Under 15 classic plate was **Amory Bennet**, with a win over **Will Kantrowitz**.

In a strong field, **John Lingos-Webb** from Milton won the Boys Under 17 in a hard-fought final over **Elliot Beck** from Andover. Lingos-Webb, after falling behind in each game, showed great poise while slowly and patiently battling back. Lingos-Webb beat fourth place finisher **Greg Kantrowitz** and **Dan Pasquale** to reach the finals; Beck beat third-place finisher **John McCarthy** and **Rob Linsalata**. Pasquale, after falling

to Lingos-Webb in the second round, went on to place fifth with a 3-1 win in the consolation final over **Jon Simpson**.

In a small but strong field, **John Barry** won the Boys Under 19 round robin without losing a game. **Alex Hogan** from Brooklyn, NY placed second, and **Anthony Bardaro** of the Belmont Hill School placed third. Pasquale's fifth-place finish demonstrates the importance, to the junior players, of the full feed-in consolation. Without the full feed-in format, Pasquale, with his second-round loss to eventual winner Lingos-Webb, would not have had the opportunity to play in the consolation bracket and would have had an early exit from the tournament. Similarly, the Massachusetts Plate (or second consolation bracket) allows junior players who have two early losses to continue to enjoy tournament play with additional matches.

MSRA Junior Leagues

A record 16 teams are participating in this season's MSRA Junior League. Each team has up five players of varying abilities, from varsity-level high schoolers to intermediate-level younger players, during six Sundays between November and February. All matches will be held on the 16 courts of Harvard University's Barnaby Squash Courts at Murr Center. The Junior League dates are November 3, November 24, December 15, January 19, February 2, and February 23. Each league date, teams and players will play two matches apiece. The culmination of the Junior League is the Knockout Cup, the MSRA junior team championships, to be held on April 6. Immediately after the conclusion of Knockout Cup, the MSRA Junior Committee holds its annual junior awards ceremony and season closing gala.

Thanks to League Coordinator **Gaurav Juneja**, League Manager **Sarah Cortes**, area squash professionals and coaches, a large number of new players will enter the MSRA scene through the Junior League. **Chris Spahr** and the University Club lead the pack with six teams competing. **John Ambielli** and the Belmont Hill School are fielding three teams. **Orla O'Doherty's** SquashBusters crew have entered three teams. **Sharon Bradey** of the Harvard Club is bringing two teams. **Paul Ansdell's** Concord-Acton Squash Club and **Frank Millet's** two-time defending Knockout Cup Champion Milton Academy Boys have each entered a team.

The league standings as of December 15 are as follows:

Belmont Mill Maroon	28 points
Belmont Hill Navy	28 points
Harvard Club 1	23 1/2 points
University Club Uranium	21 1/2 points
Concord-Acton	19 points
Harvard Club 2	19 points
Milton Academy Boys	18 1/2 points
University Club Kryptonite	18 1/2 points
University Club Gold	15 1/2 points
University Club Mercury	14 points
Belmont Hill Sexants	13 points
University Club Titanium	10 points
University Club Platinum	9 1/2 points
SquashBusters 3	7 points
SquashBusters 1	5 points
SquashBusters 2	2 points

Junior News

USSRA Junior Rankings

I. IMPORTANT RANKING INFORMATION

USSRA in-season rankings reflect players who

1. Are current USSRA members.
2. Are certified USSRA Club Level Referees.
3. Have competed in the SAME age division in at least two tournaments.

Note: Year-end rankings require at least four events in the same age division. Missing? If you do not appear in these rankings, it may be because

1. Tournaments in which you competed have not yet submitted results.
2. Your USSRA membership has expired.
3. Your local SRA has not yet forwarded your membership to the USSRA.
4. You have not yet passed the Club Referee Exam.
5. The USSRA does not have your correct date of birth.
6. Divisions were combined and the draw did not indicate your proper age division.

II. APPEALS: April 15, 2003–May 15, 2003.

All rankings are computer generated and not open to appeal until April 15, 2003. Appeals received before April 15 will be discarded. Questions about ranking order are not handled until the appeal period.

III. CLUB REFEREE CERTIFICATION

To appear in any in-season rankings, juniors must first pass the Club Referee Examination. To secure a year-end ranking, juniors must have passed the Club Referee Exam by March 31, 2003. Once passed, juniors do not need to be re-certified. The Club Referee Exam must be mailed to the USSRA.

2002 USSRA Junior Closed National Championships: To qualify for Nationals, all juniors must have played in two tournaments in the same division as the age division entered for Nationals. Both tournaments must be played on or before the weekend ending February 02, 2003. National entrants will be selected from the top 32 ranked applicants based on the February 5–15 in-season rankings. Entrants must also be current members and have passed the Club Referee Exam. Consult the 2002–2003 Junior Advisor for more information on USSRA rankings and events.

IV. LIST OF TOURNAMENTS

The following tournaments were used for the current junior rankings, as of December 5, 2002:

DragonDoc Summer SESRA Champ.	08/11/2002
Newport Junior Open	09/22/2002
Westchester Junior Open I	09/22/2002
Polar Bear Junior Open	09/29/2002
Chatham Future Stars	10/06/2002
Fall Foliage	10/06/2002
Pittsburgh Cup	10/06/2002
Cynwyd Junior Open	10/13/2002
Boston Eye Opener	10/20/2002

St. Louis Junior Open Future Stars	10/20/2002
Baird E. Hanery	10/27/2002
Cleveland Future Stars	10/27/2002
Berwyn Junior Classic	11/03/2002
Trinity Open	11/03/2002
Hunter Lott Juniors	11/10/2002
Baltimore Junior Open	11/17/2002
Greenwich Junior Open	11/17/2002
MSRA Grand Prix	11/17/2002
Lake Forest Open	12/01/2002
Vassar Junior Classic	12/01/2002

V. JUNIOR RANKINGS AS OF 12/05/02

The following rankings of MSRA junior players (as of 12/05/02) reflect a minimum of two exposures:

Rank	Name	Hometown	# Tournaments
Girls Under 19			
19	Elisabeth S. Berylson	Milton, MA	2
20	Elizabeth Ricker	Cambridge, MA	2
Girls Under 17			
24	Julia Rosenthal	Brookline, MA	4
29	Samantha Bendetson	Wellesley, MA	2
33	Cece Cortes	Cambridge, MA	2
43	Ashley Fahr	Chestnut Hill, MA	3
Girls Under 15			
5	Cece Cortes	Cambridge, MA	5
35	Casey Cortes	Cambridge, MA	2
Girls Under 13			
11	Casey Cortes	Cambridge, MA	5
12	Sarah Loucks	Boston, MA	7
Boys Under 19			
8	Jonathan Barry	Weston, MA	2
14	Chessin Gertler	Weston, MA	2
33	Mark Pettinelli	Sudbury, MA	2
Boys Under 17			
5	Chessin Gertler	Weston, MA	4
7	Jonathan Barry	Weston, MA	5
15	John Lingos-Webb	Milton, MA	6
19	John N. Fulham IV	Wellesley, MA	7
32	Elliot Beck	Concord, MA	3
36	Andrew Michael Burmon	Milton, MA	2
43	John McCarthy	Weston, MA	3
Boys Under 15			
3	Mark Froot	Sudbury, MA	4
41	Charles Gertler	Weston, MA	2
Boys Under 13			
10	Charles Gertler	Weston, MA	7
28	Will Sullivan	Milton, MA	4

Junior News

Scottish Junior Open Rocks the World

by Casey Cortes

Casey Cortes plays GU13 squash in Massachusetts. She was seeded 5th and finished 11th in the Scottish Junior Open and 26th out of 36 in the British Junior open. Her sister Cece, who plays GU15, finished 5th in the Scottish Junior Open and 17th out of 36 in the British Junior Open. Cece and Casey are currently ranked #17 and #18 respectively in the European World rankings.

I have to admit that there were some down sides to playing in the Scottish Junior Open. We flew six hours from the US to the UK, staying overnight at an airport hotel (which actually wasn't that bad). We had to get used to British time, which is five hours ahead of us, making it really hard to get up in the morning, and British food is unusual. But when you compare that to the good things, you'll see it was all worth it. Our family stayed at the Balmoral, a really nice hotel in Edinburgh. The food there was really good (especially for Scotland), and the hotel alone was worth it. Cece and I stayed with Richard and Pat Millman's team from the USA, at the tournament hotel, The Jury's Inn. It was not as fancy, but it was so much fun. Almost all the players from the Scottish Junior Open stayed there, so it was like a really big party that went on 24 hours a day for a week. We stayed up really late, playing cards or just talking with the other kids. We didn't watch TV a lot because it was Scottish, and there is nothing good on TV in Scotland. But maybe it was just our hotel.

There were over 220 players in the tournament from 31 countries, so I got a lot of competitive matches against people I have never played before. The tournament venue was pretty OK. There were only eight courts, but they were pretty nice. There was one exhibition court. It was blue, and the front wall was glass so you could watch from the front. They served lunch there everyday, but watch out for the food. The seedings were a little messed up. In the GU13, Emily Park was seeded 3/4, but she won the whole thing. Dipika Pallikal from India came in second even though she was completely unseeded. Claire Gray, seeded #1, lost all her matches yet finished 8th because she had a bye. England's unseeded Lottie Fulton won third place. In the GU17, #1 seed Kirsty Craig finished 9th. I was seeded 5th but finished 11th out of 16. I played Lottie Fulton in the first round, and they have no feed-in consolation.

Cece and I were so happy to get to go with the Millmans' group, thanks to our coach **Chris Spahr**. He knew them a long time ago in Connecticut. **Richard and Pat Millman** were really nice. They organized a lot of activities that were really fun, like matches with juniors from private squash clubs and lunch afterwards in the clubs. We saw a lot of Edinburgh, which is a really cool city. For culture, we went to the Edinburgh Dungeons. The Edinburgh Dungeons is a museum that shows all the tortures and diseases from medieval Edinburgh. It was cool. There were also people who dressed up like people from medieval times and they told us stuff about medieval Edinburgh, but they sort of acted it out instead of it being like a history lesson, like how they put rats on a cage on your chest and they chew you to death. The rats probably like that better than regular Scottish food. And there was a lot more. We also saw the Edinburgh Castle that was built in 1024 by Robert the Bruce and the

video game exhibit with more than 100 video games that you could play. In the same museum, there were some of the Lewis chess pieces.

The British Junior Open Rocks Too

by Casey Cortes

Aside from seeing the great sights of Edinburgh and Sheffield, Pat and Richard Millman set up team practices for us every day around our match times, which was complicated because there were nine of us. They even scheduled us to play matches against some of the players in Edinburgh and Sheffield. And we ended the trip with an afternoon at the Park in Nottingham, the most famous squash club in the world. In Nottingham, Pat and Richard scheduled for us to have coaching sessions with a famous squash pro named Richard O'Connor, as well as matches against the Nottingham players. There were so many famous squash players just hanging around playing, like **Simon Parke** and **Nick Matthew**. We also got to have drinks and shoot pool in the club pub with the Nottingham kids. I was so sad when the trip was really over. Cody Cortes bought a T-shirt that says "Nottingham Squash" from **Richard O'Connor** and he wore it to school the next day where we were when we woke up.

Overall, there were more good things than bad. I hope that I can return next year and play in the Scottish Junior Open. It was definitely one of the most fun tournaments of the season.



Casey Cortes receives some tips from her coach Richard Millman at the British Junior Open in Sheffield, England.

Junior News

Girls Team Tournament

by Mike Loucks

On December 7, 15 girls' teams played in the third annual Girls Team Tournament, which was held this year at Harvard University's spectacular and spacious Murr Center. Competing were two teams each from the following schools: Milton Academy, Milton, MA; Philips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH; Philips Andover Academy, Andover, MA; Choate/Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT; Noble & Greenough School, Dedham, MA; Greenwich Academy, Greenwich, CT; and the University Club, Boston, MA. Tabor Academy in Marion, MA also entered one team, rounding the field out at 15 teams.

The tournament format was a 16-team draw, with a full feed-in consolation. A team won a round based upon match play between the four players; all individual matches were best-two-of-three games, given the tournament's time restriction (all played on one day from 1-7). If the score was tied 2-2 in matches, the first tie-breaker was total games won; if the score was still tied, the second tie-breaker was total points won.

The results were as follows:

First Place: Exeter's A Team (**Kate Mandel; Emily Stork; Katie Seno;** and **Elizabeth Ricker**)

Second Place: Greenwich's A Team (**Charlotte Gerrish; Brooke Richman; Morgan Breck;** and **Stefanie Marx**)

Third Place: Greenwich's B Team (**Annier Ferrer, Allie Brandenburger, Paige Pederson;** and **Christina Hoffman**)

Fourth Place: Milton's B Team (**Julia Rosenthal; Samantha Bendetson; Ilana Sclar;** and **Brittney Delaney**)

Phillips Exeter Academy beat Greenwich Academy in a very exciting and dramatic final. One of Greenwich's players, **Brooke Richman**, was injured in her semi-final match and could not play in the final, so Exeter began the match up 1-0, 9-0, 9-0. In the first match, **Elizabeth Ricker** from Exeter beat **Stefanie Marx** from Greenwich 9-2, 9-4, putting Exeter up 2-0. Then, **Morgan Breck** from Greenwich beat **Katie Seno** from Exeter 9-7, 9-1, and in the exciting last match, **Charlotte Gerrish** from Greenwich scored a decisive victory over Exeter's **Kate Mandel** 9-5, 9-1, to tie the match score at 2-2.

Because each team won four games, the second tie-breaker (total points won) had to be used to determine the winner. Greenwich simply could not overcome the 9-0, 9-0 scores from the match they had to default, so Exeter was declared the winner with 50 points won versus 42 for Greenwich. That win on points was Exeter's second win on points in its trip to the victory, having bested a team from Milton Academy 69-65 points.

Prep School Results

Compiled by Mike Loucks

Girls

Concord Academy: beat Winsor 5-2; lost to Noble & Greenough, 6-1. Record: **1-1**.

St. Paul's School: beat St. Marks's 7-0; beat Nobles 7-0. Record: **2-0**.

Tabor Academy: beat St. Mark's 7-0; beat Brooks 7-0; beat Moses Brown 4-1; lost to Noble & Greenough 7-0. Record: **3-1**.

Milton Academy: beat Brooks, 7-0; beat Noble & Greenough 7-0; beat Moses Brown, 7-0. Record, **3-0**.

St. Mark's School: beat Williston 4-3; lost to Tabor 1-6; lost to St. Paul's School 0-7; lost to Suffield Winsor 2-6. Record **1-3**.

Noble & Greenough: beat Concord Academy 6-1; lost to Middlesex 3-4; beat Moses Brown 7-0; lost to Milton 0-7; beat Tabor 6-1; lost to St. Paul's School 0-7. Record: **3-3**.

Middlesex School: beat Nobles 4-3; lost to Groton 7-0. Record: **1-1**.

Groton School: beat Middlesex 7-0; lost to Milton 2-5. Record: **1-1**.

St. George's School: beat Tabor 7-0; beat Moses Brown, 7-0; beat Westminster 6-1. Record: **3-0**.

Boys

St. Paul's School: beat St. Marks 5-2, lost to Belmont Hill 0-7, lost to Philips Exeter 2-5. Record: **1-2**.

Groton School: beat Deerfield 5-2; lost to Milton 5-2. Record: **1-1**.

Concord Academy: beat Portsmouth Abbey, 7-0; lost to Noble & Greenough; beat Wheeler 7-0. Record: **2-1**.

Belmont Hill School: lost to St. George's Academy 3-4; beat Portsmouth Abbey School 7-0; beat St. Mark's School 7-0; beat St. Paul's School 7-0. Record: **3-1**.

Milton Academy: Beat St. Mark's 7-0; beat Moses Brown, 6-1; beat Groton, 5-2; beat Exeter 7-0. Record: **4-0**.

Tabor Academy: lost to Philips Andover 2-5, beat Brooks 6-1, lost to Loomis Chaffee 3-4, lost to Choate Rosemary Hall, 2-5; beat Noble & Greenough, 6-1. Record: **2-3**.

St. Mark's School: beat Andover 5-2; beat Concord Academy 5-2; lost to Middlesex 5-2; lost to St. Paul's School, 5-2, lost to Milton 7-0. Record **2-3**.

Middlesex School: beat Nobles 5-2; beat St. Mark's School 5-2. Record: **1-1**.

Noble & Greenough School: lost to Middlesex 2-5; beat Concord Academy; lost to St. George's 0-7.

Phillips Andover Academy: beat Tabor 5-2; beat Deerfield 6-1; lost to St. Mark's School, 2-5. Record: **2-1**.

Middlesex School: beat Nobles 5-2; beat St. Mark's School 5-2. Record: **2-0**.

St. George's School: beat Nobles 7-0; beat Belmont Hill 4-3; beat Portsmouth Abbey, 7-0; beat Brooks 7-0. Record: **3-0**.

Junior News

Massachusetts Squads

New program trains MSRA junior elites for national and international competition

by Sarah Cortes

The Massachusetts Junior Squads is a new elite junior development program modeled on the USSRA national squads. In this elite program, participation is by invitation only to highly ranked juniors, based on each junior's national ranking. **Chris Spahr**, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Squads and a team of local coaches and professionals aims to bring Massachusetts elite juniors up to the standard of juniors elsewhere in the USA.

The Massachusetts Junior Squads held two training sessions for its 35 members in November and December, with the goal of getting them ready for upcoming major junior tournaments. Coach **Chris Spahr** of The University Club has recruited the best of area pros and coaches to raise the juniors' level of play, including the following coaches: **John Ambielli** of Belmont Hill School, **Paul Ansdell** of the Concord-Acton Squash Club, **Ian Conway** of Milton Academy, **Gaurav Juneja** of Harvard University, **Briggs Johnson** of the Harvard Club and **Daniel Sharplin**, newly arrived at The Sports Club/LA.



Cece Cortes and the Massachusetts Squads coach Chris Spahr after a win at the USSRA Junior Olympics at Yale.

The first major tournament in December was the USSRA Junior Olympics, held at Yale University over December 19–22. 400 entrants from around the world participated in this tournament. Coach Spahr and **Jason Hicks** (also of the University Club) accompanied the largest Massachusetts junior contingent to date to the Junior Olympics—17 players, resplendent in their Massachusetts Squads team shirts. The Mass. Squads juniors posted some strong results, with some of the juniors playing their best squash of the year.

Next up were the Scottish and British Junior Opens, held the weekends of December 27–29 and January 2–6, respectively. Three Massachusetts Squads members played the British, the oldest, largest and most prestigious junior tournament in the world. Two Mass. Squads members played the traditional warm-up to the British, the Scottish Junior Open. All three played their best squash ever, with one junior achieving 5th place in the Scottish Junior Open and 17th in the British Junior Open.

Finally, the Massachusetts Junior Open (“MJO”), held January 10–12 at Harvard University’s Murr Center, showcased Mass. Squads talent to more than 100 out-of-town players. Like last year, this year’s MJO drew 225-plus kids and is poised to be one of the three largest junior tournaments in the USA, after the USSRA Junior Olympics and the National Closed Tournament. The Massachusetts Squad troops had a tremendous showing at the MJO in spite of the appearance of some of the highest ranked juniors in the USA. The Massachusetts Squad scored 1st place champions in three divisions, 2nd place in two divisions, 3rd place in three divisions, one 4th place finish, two 5th place showings and three 6th place efforts.



Barrett Takesian and his dad Tom at the USSRA Junior Olympics at Yale.

The remaining Massachusetts Squads training sessions will be held on January 26, February 9 and February 23. The coaches will be preparing the Massachusetts team for the USSRA National Closed Championships. Maybe there’s a national champion among the team members this year?

Junior News

2003 Massachusetts Junior Open attracts a record 241 players

by Sarah Cortes

The Massachusetts Junior Open (MJO), held January 10–12 at Harvard University's Murr Center, attracted 232 players from all over the US and the Americas. In only its second year, The MJO has become one of the largest junior tournaments in the United States. This is one of the few US tournaments that guarantees each participant three matches, with a full feed-in consolation and also a Plate division. Players from sunny Barbados are braving the harsh New England weather to participate. The MJO was sponsored by Black Knight, **Satinder Bajwa** and Complete Squash Camps, The Charles Hotel, and Harvard University. The tournament is held at Harvard's Murr Center, the only single-site venue for a major tournament besides Yale. The MJO is run entirely by volunteers and devotes all proceeds from the tournament to junior development programs.

Firsts this year at the MJO included the following:

- Non-sanctioned U10s and U7s divisions: 15 participants. Thanks to **Chris Spahr** and **John Ambielli** who ran these divisions.
- Tournament web site linked to MSRA web site.
- First match times provided on web site.
- Results reported daily on the Internet with TMS software. Full results available the next day on the tournament web site.
- Harvard coaches and varsity teams as referees.
- Over 100 engraved silver trophies for first through 8th place and Plate winner and finalist, and 10 silver sportsmanship awards.
- Photos for everyone winning a trophy, thanks to **Drew Webb** and **Tom Takesian**.
- Free babysitting.

Firsts last year at the MJO included the following:

- Guaranteed three matches with the Plate division, a third draw.
- A reception with a DJ and hors d'oeuvres included in the entry fee.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner free to all players and parents all weekend.

Full results of the Massachusetts Junior Open can be found at: http://www.ma-squash.org/juniors/junior_open.



Junior News

MSRA Juniors Defend Home Turf in the Mass. Junior Open

by Joe Cortes

The 2003 Massachusetts Junior Open, held January 10–12, became a showcase for local MSRA junior talent. Once again, the Open was extremely competitive, as more than 130 of the tournament's 240 players traveled from outside Massachusetts to sample the competition. Many were some of the highest ranked juniors in the USA. The MSRA crew held their own against the onslaught, placing in all but two of the 10 divisions:

1 st Place (3 divisions):	Boys Under 13	Charles Gertler
	Boys Under 17	John Fulham
	Boys Under 19	Chessin Gertler
2 nd Place (2 divisions):	Girls Under 17	Cece Cortes
	Boys Under 13	Barrett Takesian
3 rd Place (3 divisions):	Girls Under 13	Casey Cortes
	Girls Under 17	Julia Rosenthal
	Girls Under 19	Elizabeth Berylson
4 th Place (1 division):	Girls Under 19	Caroline Shannon
5 th Place (2 divisions):	Girls Under 17	Samantha Bendetson
	Boys Under 19	William Walter
6 th Place (3 divisions):	Girls Under 15	Krissy Rubin
	Girls Under 17	Rebecca Perlman
	Boys Under 19	Greg Vernick

Casey Cortes won 3rd place in the GU13, defeating **Lillian Fast** of Rye, NY in the playoff. Earlier, Casey took the USA's No. 3 ranked player, **Maggie Remsen** of Locust Valley, New York to a hard-fought four games (two overtime) in the semifinals.

Charles Gertler marched through the deep BU13 division without dropping a game. **Barrett Takesian** came through with a five-game, 10-9 in the 5th victory in the semifinals against **Nick Marks** of Portland, Oregon before falling to MSRA rival and Mass. Squad-mate Gertler in the championship match.

Cece Cortes, playing in an older age division than normal, GU17, and fresh off playing the Scottish and British Junior Opens the previous weekends, scored an upset in the semifinals. She eked out a five-game victory over Mass. Squad-mate **Julia Rosenthal** before falling to top seed **Minoo Fadaifard** of New York, NY in the finals. Rosenthal turned around and nabbed 3rd place over **Liz Hartigan** of Concord, NH, in five hard-fought games. **Samantha Bendetson** took 5th place with a tough four-game match over Mass. Squad-mate **Rebecca Perlman**.

John Fulham, also fresh off the British Junior Open experience, won the always-tough BU17 division with a four-game victory in the championship match over **Leroy Leong** of Malaysia. John scored a mild upset over 2nd seed **Colin Campbell** of Lutherville, MD in the semifinals.

Elizabeth Berylson took 3rd place over Mass. Squad-mate **Caroline Shannon** in the GU19 draw after a heart-stopping loss in the semifinals to Sarah Thorndike of Greenwich, CT and Groton School. Elizabeth had fought back from two games down to level the match at two games all. The 5th game was a war of attrition, ending at 9-7 for Thorndike. **Caroline Shannon** had fallen earlier to top seed and former GU17 USA No. 1 **Megan Cerullo** of Brooklyn, NY.

Chessin Gertler won one of the largest BU19 draws in the USA after defeating higher ranked **Andrew Zimmerman** of Brooklyn, NY in the championship in a match marred by controversy. The mercurial Zimmerman was penalized a stroke for conduct along the way. Gertler showed impressive coolness amidst the histrionics and deserved this important championship for the locals. Gertler scored a mild upset in the semifinals over 2nd seed **Ryan Maher** of St. Louis, MO. After a long weekend of squash, **William Walter** defeated **Greg Vernick**, home from college, for 5th place.

Congratulations to MSRA Juniors! And, congratulations to the Mass. Squads coaches for preparing the troops. For complete 2003 Massachusetts Junior Open results, visit the MSRA website at www.ma-squash.org and go to the Juniors section or the MJO link on the MSRA home page.

Junior News

Milton Future Stars Junior Tournament

Compiled by Joe Cortes

Here are the results from the Milton Future Stars junior tournament held at Milton Academy on December 6-8, 2002.

Boys Under 13:

- 1st Place **Will Sullivan**
- 2nd Place **Greg Crane**
- 3rd Place **Jose Rivera**
- 4th Place **Sam Panarese**
- 5th Place **Mikhail Darlington**
- 6th Place **Lyman Munschauer**

Boys Under 15:

- 1st Place **Greg Vernick**
- 2nd Place **Eric Jones**
- 3rd Place **Amory Bennett**
- 4th Place **Daniel Lesser**
- 5th Place **Saul Garcia**
- 6th Place **Sam Landis**

Boys Under 17/19:

- 1st Place **John McCarthy**
- 2nd Place **Rick Munschauer**
- 3rd Place **Alex O'Neill**
- 4th Place **Teddy Panarese**
- 5th Place **Alex Heitzmann**
- 6th Place **Matthew Bondaryk**

Mixed Under 11:

- 1st Place **Michael Lillie**
- 2nd Place **Nicole Shepherd**
- 3rd Place **Michael Hughes**
- 4th Place **James Fulham**
- 5th Place **Elliott Greene**

Girls Under 13:

- 1st Place **Judy Braga**
- 2nd Place **Corey Schafer**
- 3rd Place **Courtney Jones**
- 5th Place **Hannah Coffin**
- 6th Place **Margaret Eldred**

Girls Under 15:

- 1st Place **Virginia Shannon**
- 2nd Place **Sydney Smith**
- 3rd Place **Monete Johnson**
- 4th Place **Julia Nary**
- 5th Place **Elisa Melendez**
- 6th Place **Sacha Anderson**

Girls Under 17/19:

- 1st Place **Kate Gormley**
- 2nd Place **Elizabeth McCarthy**
- 3rd Place **Melissa Bruynell**
- 4th Place **Nicole Wegman**

Meet Five of the Mass. Squads Juniors



Arthur Greene



John Fulham



Liz Berylson



Julia Rosenthal



John Lingos-Webb

SquashBusters Take a Bite Out of the Big Apple

by Orla O'Doherty, SquashBusters Squash Director

On Friday, January 19, 26 SquashBusters students and five staff members took off to New York City for a year-end celebration for Team Four, as they come to the end of their third year with the middle school program. Each year, the students are rewarded for their efforts on the court, in the classroom, and around the community.

As we arrived on Friday night, we realized just how cold it was as everyone scrambled to get their bags out of the vans and cars and into taxis and subways to head off to their housing. StreetSquash, our sister program in New York City, had arranged housing for us throughout the city, from Brooklyn to Manhattan to Harlem, so we broke into five groups and headed off. Needless to say, some of us were eager to explore the streets of New York, while others were nervous as it was their first time there. That evening, we had dinner with our host families and got tucked away to bed, hoping to get enough rest for the rest of the weekend.

Saturday morning at 8:45 a.m. we had a giant meeting inside the main door of the Empire State Building. With the staff constantly doing head counts, we loaded into the elevators and made our way to the top. Luckily, we were early;



The SquashBusters students pose at the Rockefeller Center skating rink in New York City on January 21. Top (L–R): Jean-Marc Delva, Mikhail Darlington, Saul Garcia, Daniel Sousa, Jose Rivera, Holli Medeiros. Middle (L–R): Elisa Melendez, Sabina Dhakal, Sydney Smith, Vicky Flamenco, Nick Cummings, Patrick Williams, Stephanie Edouazin.

hardly anyone was there, so we had lots of room and viewing space. Amazingly enough, it seemed warmer up there than it did down below! It was a perfect day with a clear, blue sky, and the kids had a great time walking around trying to figure out what each building was. Needless to say, the price of a souvenir gift was above what we had expected, so not much money was spent!

From the Empire State building, we headed for Times Square to visit Toys 'r' Us. Staff and students alike hopped onto the indoor Ferris Wheel. SquashBusters kids were on every floor in absolute heaven, buying candy, video games, and cuddly toys. After a quick meeting at the front door, half the group headed off to Columbia University to play the teams from StreetSquash and CitySquash (Tim Wyant's new program), while the other half headed towards the Museum of Natural History. Later, half the students went shopping on Park Avenue, while the squash players went to the Museum. Everyone took a walk through Central Park.

We all met up as a group at 5:30 p.m. and went to a circus on Broadway, which included a man who could swallow swords, an expert yo-yo juggler, some tap dancers, a rodeo, and a magician. After that, the highlight of the trip was dinner at the unique New York restaurant, Jekyll and Hyde, which offered continuous live entertainment and spooky special effects. The creatures and memorabilia came to life and interacted with us while we enjoyed our meal. Some of the bizarre characters included *Claw the Gargoyle*, *Tobias the Werewolf*, *Dreadmina the Vampire* and a genuine Egyptian mummy. Something unusual happens every 10 minutes at Jekyll and Hyde! By 11:00 p.m. we were all back to our host families.

On Sunday, the SquashBusters students went ice skating at Rockefeller Center, followed by a quick trip to the NBC Experience Store, where Pedro had a quick chat with Conan O'Brien—he even has the video to prove it! We all made it home by 6 p.m., exhausted and ready for a nice, hot shower. It must have been the coldest weekend in New York City!

MSRA League News

Open 5.5 League

With nine weeks down and six to go, a fierce battle rages for playoff positioning in the Men's A League. (Women are welcome in the league and posted a perfect record until **Michael DeForest** defended men's honor barely edging **Hope Prockop** 3-2 on January 7.)

No mystery surrounds which of the 10 teams will not make up the 8 playoff spots as the Boston Racquet Club and The Harvard Business School teams have virtually eliminated themselves from contention. In fact the HBS team is on course to set a record of futility having recorded just one match win in 36 tries.

The Boston Sports Club is the two-time A league defending champion, but age, kids, and other real-world distractions make a threepeat unlikely. They are currently in 7th place. Perennial contender Concord-Acton has also fallen on hard times, slipping to 8th. **Rob Davis's** recent return makes them a team to be wary of come playoff time. The Harvard Club and MIT are tied for 5th. MIT has a powerful 1-2-3 punch of **Irfan Chaudhary**, **Kunal Surana**, and **Ali Merchant**. The Harvard Club is riding the shoulders of talented newcomer **Briggs Johnson** and the resurgent **Josh Horwitz**. T&R stole all the good players from Maugus and are tied with the Union Boat Club for the second spot in the standings. UBC, by the way, has trotted out **Mark Lewis** for a key match or two, though he is unlikely to play enough matches to qualify for the playoffs.

The University Club is oozing in squash talent this year. So much so that they have split themselves into two teams roughly by age. Not surprisingly, the older team (creatively named University Club 1) is dominating play. **Jason Hicks**, **Chris Spahr**, **Sal Llach**, **Scott Poirier**, and **Doug Lifford** make up an imposing group. It was only a couple of years (and pounds) ago that Lifford was winning the State A tournament and now he can barely make the traveling squad. The University Club 1 team sits atop the standings. The younger team (creatively dubbed University 2) is led by newcomer **Rohan Bhappu**, who in my unofficial rankings, rates just behind **Lucky Odeh**, last year's state champion. University Club 2 is positioned in the #4 spot in the standings.

Speaking of state champions, all the winners since 1996, except for **Pat Malloy**, are playing in the league this year, including **Lucky Odeh**, **Rob Davis**, **Ali Merchant** (a two-time winner), **Doug Lifford**, and **Ron Rubin**. What fascinates me is that in last week's play, three of these past champs played #4 on their teams and one played #2. Even last year's state A runner-up, **Chris Spahr**, is playing in the #2 or #3 slot. You'd think these guys would get a little more respect. Only Lucky plays #1 on his team.

The overall quality of play in the league continues to rise. Lucky remains undefeated and #1. Two newcomers have cracked the top ten: **Rohan Bhappu** at #2 and **Briggs Johnson** at #5. **Irfan Chaudhary** slips in at #3 and **Jason Hicks** at #4. **Mike Semprucci** has inched up to #6, which shows what rooming with Lucky can do for your game. **Kunal Surana** (#9) is another player who has made huge strides in his game. Long-time A-leaguers **Paul Ansdell** and **Tyler Hindermann** make up the #7 and #8 spots. Tyler, by the way, entered the season as the all-time A-

league wins leader with over 100 league wins under his belt. Rounding out the top 10 is **Preston Amos** and on the outside looking in at #11 is **Scott Poirier**, back in action after a year in London. Don't forget to sign up for the State A tournament on the MSRA web site today!

Play well.

—Philip

Open 5.5 League Standings as of 01/10/03

University Club One	29 points
Union Boat Club	28 points
Tennis & Racquet	27 points
University Club Two	27 points
MIT	22 points
Boston Sports Club	20 points
Harvard Club	19 points
Concord-Acton	18 points
Boston Racquet	9 points
Harvard Business School	1 point

Open 4.5 League

With the first half of the season now behind us, perennial powerhouse Concord-Acton owns a three-point lead in the standings over the upstarts at the Boston Sports Club. Longfellow and HealthPoint are close behind with UBC, Maugus, Harvard and BAC comprising the playoff teams if the standings don't change.

Concord-Acton, eager to atone for last season's loss in the finals, opened their wallets in the off-season, resulting in an impressive recruiting campaign. They are by far the deepest team in the league. Their domination to date is even more impressive when one considers two of their top players have missed virtually the entire season so far. Last year's champion Maugus team, unofficially the oldest in the league, has had an up and down year and needs to pull together if they're to repeat as champions.

Surprising the pre-season pollsters this year are Boston Sports Club, Longfellow, and Harvard Club. In year's past, the league's elite looked past these teams, but no longer. Each has strengthened themselves significantly and plans to make a run at the league crown. With half the season to go, anything can still happen. Time will tell who has the strength and depth to make it through to the end. With virtually all teams still in the hunt, the second half should be an exciting one indeed.

Open 4.5 League Standings as of 01/01/03

Concord Acton	29 points
Boston Sports Club	26 points
Longfellow Sudbury	25 points
HealthPoint	24 points
Union Boat Club	22 points
Maugus Club	21 points
Harvard Club	20 points
Boston Athletic Club	19 points
Andover Racquet Club	18 points

(continued on page 15)

MSRA League News *(continued)*

Cambridge Racquet	14 points
Boston Racquet Club	12 points
University Club	9 points
Harvard Business School	3 points
Tennis & Racquet	3 points

Open 3.5 League

The Open C League has a new league chair (that's me, Simon Graham) who is newly promoted from the D league, so I can't make any comparisons with last season. What I can say is that we have a very large league with 17 teams, so there is plenty of great squash competition. At the halfway point, the Union Boat Club team is in the lead, with Cambridge Racquet, Boston Sports Club and The Harvard Club close on their heels.

Most of the matches this season have been rather one-sided, with only a few ending up with a 3-2 score. However, we had one match, between The University Club and MIT, that was a dead heat all the way to points scored—each team received 2.5 points for that one; I think they should have received more points just for managing to be so closely matched!

We're all looking forward to the second half of the season.

Open 3.5 League Standings as of 01/01/03

Union Boat Club	25 points
Cambridge Racquet	23 points
Boston Sports Club	21 points
Harvard Club	21 points
Andover Racquet Club	17 points
Maugus Club	16 points
Milton Academy	16 points
Boston Boasts (YMCA)	15 points
Longfellow Sudbury	14 points
Concord-Acton	13 points
HealthPoint One	13 points
University Club	12.5 points
Boston Racquet Club	11 points
MIT	9.5 points
HealthPoint Two	9 points
Tennis & Racquet	3 points
Harvard Business School	1 points

Open 2.5 League

Bill Parcels has nothing on **Harold Helson**. Three years ago, Harold brought a team from the Cambridge Racquet & Fitness Club into the D league, where it proceeded to win just one match, amass all of three points and finish dead last. The following year, the CRFC team doubled its wins and increased its point total to 22 points, but they could climb only up to ninth place in a ten-team league. Harold patiently and cannily continued to draft squash players from what appears to be the United Nations but apparently is just the CRFC membership, and last year his team went 11-4, good for 54 points and third place, only to lose to Union Boat Club in the semifinals of the playoffs. Harold

continued to tweak his roster, and this year they seem poised to go all the way. Rounding the halfway point in the season, CRFC is the only undefeated team and sits comfortably in first place with 35 points. Equally remarkable, if not quite as strong, is the performance of FoMaMA, which has done hardly any tweaking over the years but which, led by their undefeated No. 1, **Ed Lee**, had won seven of its eight matches and was tied for second with Andover, eight points back of CRFC. Andover, the 2001 league champion, seems to have picked up where it left off after taking a hiatus from the league last year. Longfellow Sudbury rounded out the upper bracket by winning three of its last four matches to move into fourth place.

There are surprises in the lower half of the D league standings, too. Traditional powers Union Boat Club, Concord-Acton and University Club have mustered only eight wins among them and stood 7th, 8th and 11th, respectively. However, with seven matches yet to be played, there's plenty of time for them to be heard from. Finally, the Harvard Business School entered a team in the D league for the first time this year. It's not doing very well yet and its cause wasn't helped by forfeiting the last match of 2002 and the first of 2003 because of the school's exam and vacation schedule, but if CRFC is any indication, watch out for them in three years!

Open 2.5 League Standings as of 01/10/03

Cambridge Racquet	35 points
Andover Racquet	27 points
Friends of Millet @ Milton	27 points
Longfellow Club	24 points
Boston Racquet Club	20 points
HealthPoint	20 points
Union Boat Club	19 points
Concord-Acton	17 points
Maugus Club	16 points
Tennis & Racquet	16 points
University Club	13 points
Harvard Business School	6 points

Open 50+ League

Open 50+ League Standings as of 01/01/03

Harvard Club	20 points
Concord-Acton	18 points
Milton Academy	14 points
Union Boat Club	12 points
Boston Racquet Club	10 points
Maugus Club	9 points

Women's A League

The Women's A league is using a box league format. We have met twice so far, and upcoming dates are 1/27/03 and 2/10/03 at the University Club. If you're interested in playing, e-mail Kate Lytle at katelytle@hotmail.com.

(continued on page 16)

MSRA League News *(continued)*

Results to date:

11/18/02

Char Joslin def. **Andrea McNeely** 3-0

Melinda Lee def. **Beth Snell** 3-1

Jeannie Blasberg def. **Kate Lytle** 3-0

Lindsey Bishop def. **Marybeth Horn** 3-0

12/5/02

Shona Kerr def. **Jeannie Blasberg** 3-1

Kate Lytle def. **Char Joslin** 3-2

Melinda Lee def. **Pam Kaneb** 3-0

Rosie O'Donnell def. **Andrea McNeely** 3-1

Hoping all those great players who have recently become mothers are back out on the court in 2003!! We miss you.

Women's B League

The Women's B league has had a great start to the season. The season kicked off with several league players traveling to Washington, DC to participate in the Howe Cup. Although it was disappointing that only five clubs enrolled teams in the league this year, the competition has been great, with many close matches and good camaraderie.

As of January 10, 2003, the University Club is very narrowly in the lead with 22 points. Nipping at the UClub's heels is the Harvard Club with 21 points, followed by Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club with 13 points, Concord-Acton with 11 points, and the Boston Sports Club with 3 points. The second half of the season should be very interesting!

Over 30 players have participated in women's B league play thus far. **Wendy Irwin** of the University Club is currently the only player in the league to have a perfect 6-0 record, although **Emily Lubin** of the Harvard Club has also had a strong season with an excellent 5-0 start. Other strong performers to date have been last year's C league winner **Naomi Bradshaw** of Concord-Acton, newcomer **Debby Lipson** of the Harvard Club, and perennial top contender **Allison Amherst** of Cambridge Racquet.

The highlights of the season so far include the following: On November 20, the Harvard Club and University Club played what must have been one of the closest matches in MSRA history. The matches and games were both tied, so it came down to points with the University Club edging out The Harvard Club by one single point! We have also had several amazing five-set battles between B league players. Examples include **Amanda Bachelder's** (Cambridge) narrow win over **Peg Sestrich** (Concord-Acton), **Emily Soisson's** (BSC) nailbiter victory over **Jody Simpson** (Harvard), **Nicole Zola's** (UC) narrow defeat by **Naomi Bradshaw** (Concord-Acton) after overcoming a 0-2 deficit, and Zola's (she loves those five setters!) great comeback against **Liz Lambert** (Cambridge).

So ladies, here's to a great second half of the season! Don't forget to sign up for the B league championships to be held at The Groton

School on April 5th.

Women's B League Standings as of 01/10/03

University Club	22 points
Harvard Club	21 points
Cambridge Racquet Club@Murr	13 points
Concord Acton	11 points
Boston Sports Club	3 points

Women's C League

The Women's C league is off to an exciting start, with some great matches. The league lead has changed hands several times; four strong teams, Cambridge Racquet and Fitness Club, Concord-Acton Squash Club, HealthPoint, and The Harvard Club, are vying for first place. As of January 10, Concord-Acton held a three-point lead over Cambridge Racquet and HealthPoint, having lost only one match so far this season, but they face some stiff competition in the matches ahead. The Harvard Club is only three points behind those four teams. The teams from Tennis & Racquet and The University Club are struggling, but T&R came back in the last match before the holiday break with a strong 3-1 upset of HealthPoint, and the University Club gets better results each week.

The four top women's C league teams each has a strong #1 player. **Vivian Johnson** (The Harvard Club) and **Bernadette Dixon** (Cambridge) have each only lost one match at #1, **Jamie Banks** is playing very well, and **Jennifer Moran** (Concord-Acton) took Bernadette to five games in her last match before going on maternity leave. Bernadette, the early front-runner for the #1 ranking, won The January Thaw tournament at Concord-Acton on January 18. Other regular players with excellent records are **Diana Smith** (HealthPoint), **Polly Vanasse** and **Anna Ansdell** (Concord-Acton), **Maria Mayorga** and **Jennifer Garlin** (both from Cambridge), **Phoebe Slanetz** (The Harvard Club), and **Martha Payne** and **Carey Jaros** (Tennis and Racquet).

Can Cambridge repeat as champions and win their third Women's C title in five years, or will HealthPoint's deep pool of strong players bring them the title for the first time? How will Concord-Acton survive without their best player, and will The Harvard Club surge to the top of the rankings on the back of their hard-hitting #1 player? Only time will tell, and anything can happen in the playoffs.

Don't forget to sign up for the Women's C League championships to be held at The Groton School on April 5th. This can be done at the MSRA web site at www.ma-squash.org.

Women's C League Standings as of 01/10/03

Concord-Acton	29 points
Cambridge Racquet	26 points
HealthPoint	26 points
Harvard Club	23 points
Tennis & Racquet	9 points
University Club	4 points

Tournament Results

Middlesex Bowl Concord-Acton November 1–3, 2002

Open A Final:
Mike Semprucci def. Dave Adams (3-2)

3rd/4th:
Derek Moran def. Matt Munich (3-0)

Plate:
Hope Prockop def. Tim Bacon (3-1)

Consolation:
Dave Atkins def. Richard Von Hirschberg (3-1)

Open B Final:
John Wilson def. Brian Roberts (3-2)

3rd/4th:
Shashank Mallick def. Jan Kansky (3-1)

Plate:
Nick Nevin def. Mike Lapham, 3-0

Consolation:
Ric Calvillo def. Paul Boyce, 3-0

Open C Final:
John Reiss def. Simon Graham (3-2)

3rd/4th:
Phil Strahan def. Myke Farricker (3-0)

Plate:
Michael Preston def. Jonathan Wagshul (3-1)

Consolation:
John Eckman def. Dudley Goar (3-1)

Open D (Round Robin):
Winner: Ed Johnson
Runner-up: Joel Scolnick

Open 50+ (Round Robin):
Winner: Gene O'Malley
Runner-up: Wayne Hodges

Open 60+/70+ (Round Robin):
Winner: Doug Lee
Runner-up: Lew Holmes

Women's B Final:
Frances Lloyd def. Tina Wu (3-2)

3rd/4th:
Bry Roskoz def. Lisa Evans (3-0)

Consolation:
Neely Steinberg def. Nicole Zola (3-0)

Women's C Final:
Rebecca Wagner def. Jennifer Moran (3-0)

3rd/4th:
Bernadette Dixon def. Mo Ramage (3-0)

Plate:
Karla Quigley def. Laurie Manos (default)

Consolation:
Coleen Phillimore def. Hilary Yates (3-0)

2002 Summer Doldrums Union Boat Club September 6–8, 2002

Open A Final:
Ron Rubin def. Mike Semprucci (3-1)

Consolation:
Tyler Hindermann def. Todd Ostrow (3-0)

Open B Final:
Brian Roberts def. Jonathan Kelly (3-2)

Consolation:
Olu Ogunbamero def. Jeff Sung (3-1)

Open C Final:
Rami Mehio def. Mike Preston (3-1)

Consolation:
Christophe Dupupet def. John Hemenway (3-1)

Open D Final:
Michael Pierce def. William Stocker (3-0)

Consolation:
Brent Shay def. Christian McCall (3-0)

University Club Open December 6–8, 2002

5.5 Final:
Dave Adams def. Scott Poirier (3-0)

Consolation:
Erik Ghering def. Curtis Smith (3-0)

3.5 Final:
Sprapir Shah def. Douglas Lee (3-0)

Consolation:
Vernon Gray def. Punheet Chandhook (3-2)

3.0 Final:
Kimo Griggs def. Bill Buker (3-2)

Consolation:
Dominique Farinaux-Dumas def. Frank Antin (3-0)

2.5 Final:
David Noyes def. Jonas McCray (3-1)

Consolation:
Thomas Knox def. Jon Zorn (3-0)

Summers Cup Open Union Boat Club December 6–8, 2002

4.5 Final:
Brian Spaly def. Bill Boardman (3-1)

50+/60+:
Dan Hogan def. Jon Smith (3-0)

The January Thaw Concord-Acton January 17–19, 2003

Open A Final:
Dave Adams def. Mike Semprucci (3-2)

3rd/4th:
Jim Usherwood def. Derek Moran (3-1)

Consolation:
Dave Atkins def. Jonathon Henke (3-0)

Open B Final:
Duncan Walker def. Adrian Gill (3-1)

3rd/4th:
Sam Thayer def. Chris Malenfant (3-0)

Plate:
Matt Sleasman def. Jan Kansky (3-1)

Consolation:
Derrick Cameron def. George Lyons (3-0)

Open C Final:
Michael Weinbach def. Kevin Hollister (3-0)

3rd/4th:
Phil Strahan def. Ed Silbert (3-0)

Plate:
Simon Graham def. Stuart Joseph (3-2)

Consolation:
Bill Buker def. Glen Brenner (default)

Open D Final:
David Buckle def. Joel Skolnick (3-1)

3rd/4th:
Stefane Dumas def. Bry Roskoz (3-0)

Plate:
Chris Bettencourt def. Roger Strang (3-1)

Consolation:
Tom Knox def. Scott Wagner (3-1)

Open 50+ (Round Robin):
Winner: Jim Cronin
Runner-up: Sheff Halsey

Women's B Final:
Tina Wu def. Margo Grossberg (3-0)

3rd/4th:
Naomi Bradshaw def. Lisa Marx (default)

Consolation:
Moira Brown def. Rebecca Wagner (3-0)

Women's C Final:
Bernadette Dixon def. Sarah Lemaire (3-1)

3rd/4th:
Sasha Werner def. Mo Ramage (3-0)

Consolation (Round Robin):
Winner: Laurie Manos
Runner-up: Kami Guerrier

2002 Senior Doubles Fall Foliage Classic

The fourth edition of this event, initiated in 1999 by **Lee Spelke**, was hosted by the University Club over the weekend of October 18–20. This event has become increasingly popular, as among the 30 entrants were players from San Francisco, Toronto, Montreal, New York, New Haven, Rochester, and Philadelphia. Of course, there was a healthy representation from the home club.

Each of the four divisions was a round robin, ensuring each team of at least three matches. A few brave souls entered two divisions, meaning six or seven matches in something less than 48 hours. **Len Bernheimer**, **Hank Shaw** and **Lee Spelke** were three such warriors. In the 70+ division, Lee overcame the fatigue factor to team with **Scott Fraser** (Montreal) to defeat last year's champions, **Mike McBean** (Montreal) and **Joel Kozol**, in four games.

Lee and Hank successfully joined forces in the 65+ division, winning a very tight five-game final over the Harvard Club's **Bob Banker** and **Dick Will** (Philadelphia). This event marked the first tournament exposure outside the Punter's Cup for **Joe Carpinteri** and **Peter LaTona**, the latter suffering a small cut on the eyebrow as a badge of honor.

The 60+ division featured two pools of three teams each. This division was headlined by former national champion **Maurice Heckscher** (Philadelphia) playing with **John Vlcek** (New York). Also of great interest was the appearance of **Jerry Fineberg**, flailing away on the left wall as opponents tried to keep every ball away from his partner, **Lenny Bernheimer**. The pounding took its toll as they finished third overall. **Tony Jerauld** played well in his initial tournament, as did **Hank Shaw** teaming this time with **Dave Murphy**. There was no question, however, that the Heckscher-Vlcek tandem was the class of the field as they dropped only one game over the course of three matches.

The 55+ division was a round-robin group of five teams, including the internationally ranked pair of **Cass Quinn** (Toronto) and **Dick Rice** (Rochester). They were expected to be challenged by **Fran Donlan** and **Jim Young** (Harvard Club), but as often happens in doubles, what looks good on paper has little relation to reality. Quinn and Rice took that match in three but received their own shutout at the hands of national and world champions **Tom Poor** and **Lenny Bernheimer**, who in turn went on to win the event for the second year.

The matches were hospitably supplemented by a courtside cocktail party (for spouses and guests) Friday evening, lunch in the dining room Saturday, and a brunch on Sunday morning. In addition to Lee's work, **Chris Spahr** provided expert assistance in creating the draws and refereeing. The attendance from many locales testifies to the quality of this tournament, which continues to expand and is another event in the excellent tradition of doubles at the University Club.

Winter 2003 MSRANews 18



Wendy Ansdell of Boston's A team watches a teammate during early-round play at the Howe Cup.

"We support Massachusetts Squash because you support us!"

Charlie Johnson's Squash Shop

www.cjsquash.com

"Best prices & service in Cyberspace!"

1-800-222-1143

Visit your Web site (www.masquash.org) where you can link to our site. Take advantage of our MSRA Squash Discount!

Order online & save 5% off our already low prices.

2003 MSRA State Softball Singles and Softball Doubles Championships

DIVISIONS

Men's Singles: 5.5 (A), 4.5 (B), 3.5 (C), 2.5 (D), 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+

Women's Singles: 4.5 (A), 3.5 (B), 2.5 (C), 35+, 45+

Softball Doubles: A, B, C, 50+, 60+

DATES

Women's A, B, and C singles are April 5 at The Groton School from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., through semi-finals.

Men's age groups and skill levels are self-scheduling beginning February 11, through semi-finals.

Women's age groups are self-scheduling beginning March 4, through semi-finals.

Softball Doubles will be held at Concord-Acton, The Maugus Club, and Newton Squash beginning in April. The finals will be held Saturday, May 11 at Concord-Acton.

All Men's & Women's Singles finals will be at The Harvard Club on Thursday, April 10, starting at 5:30 p.m.

ENTRY FEE

Entry is free to all current MSRA members and \$45 for non-MSRA members.

ENTRY DEADLINES

Men's Singles: February 4

Women's Age Groups: February 21

Women's Skill Levels: March 27

Softball Doubles: March 24

To enter, please call or mail the entry form below to the appropriate tournament contact at right, or register online at www.ma-squash.org.

ENTRY FORM Please complete all items.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Work phone: _____

Home phone: _____

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT CONTACTS:

Age Groups: *Hope Crosier*, 67 Mount Vernon St., Boston, MA 02108. **617-723-5379**. (Hcrosier912@aol.com)

4.5 (A) Division: *Kate Lytle*, 9 Spring Park Ave, #1, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (cell) **617-899-1913**. (katelytle@hotmail.com)

3.5 (B) Division: *Liz Brecht*, 279 Harvard St., #12, Cambridge, MA 02139 (w) **617-457-7522**. (ebrecht@hotmail.com)

2.5 (C) Division: *Sarah Lemaire*, 11 Mallard Rd., Acton, MA 01720-2822, (h) **978-635-9081**. (shl@theworld.com)

MEN'S TOURNAMENT CONTACTS:

5.5 (A): *Philip Constable*, 639 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA 02493-1541 (cell) **617-283-9218**. (hfbarr@aol.com)

4.5 (B): *Eric Godes*, 45 Cedar Springs Lane, Needham, MA 02492. (w) **617-369-2300** (h) **781-444-0309** (egodes@kobren.com)

3.5 (C) *Simon Graham*, 198 Ballville Road, Bolton, MA 01740. (h) **978-779-6010** (w) **978-461-7142** (simon_graham@stratus.com)

2.5 (D) *Carl Cummings*, 50 Hemenway Dr., Canton, MA 0202. (w) **617-542-5305** (h) **781-821-5547**. (carlcummings@hotmail.com)

Age Groups (35+-70+): *Fran Donlan*, 12 Floret Circle, Hingham, MA 02043. (w) **781-681-4928** (h) **781-749-3350**. (Fran.Donlan@morganstanley.com)

Softball Doubles: *Lewis Holmes*, 377 Weston Rd., Wellesley, MA 02481 (w) **617-726-1742** (h) **781-237-9313**. (holmes.lewis@ngh.harvard.edu)

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Work phone: _____ Home phone: _____	USSRA#*: _____ Division**: _____ Skill Level Rating: _____ Ranking Info: _____ Club/School: _____ E-mail address: _____ Doubles partner (if applicable): _____
---	--

* USSRA numbers known to the MSRA are included on the membership list posted at the MSRA web site (www.ma-squash.org).

** A player may play in more than one division based on their skill level. A player cannot enter a skill level division if their level is .25 greater than the state skill level draw. For example, for a 5.5 draw, no one greater than 5.75 can enter.

Men's and Women's 2003 Hardball Doubles Championships

DATES: March 3-May 5, 2003.

DIVISIONS: A, B, C, 50+, 60+, Mixed

ENTRY FEE: Free to current MSRA members. \$45 for non-MSRA members. Eligibility will be strictly enforced.

ENTRY DEADLINE: February 28, 2003

SITES: University and Harvard Clubs

DRAWS: Posted at University Club and on the MSRA web site (www.ma-squash.org)

BALL: Slazenger Blue Doubles (red dot)

POLICIES AT HOST CLUBS: The MSRA is grateful to the University and Harvard Clubs for allowing their facilities to be used for the State Doubles events. All non-members of these clubs should keep in mind that they are guests and as such should observe the following policies:

Prime Time: 5:00-7:00 PM, Mon.-Fri. No tournament matches during prime time unless courts are available. Courts close weekdays at 9:30 PM.

Practice Time: At least one of the foursome must be a club member, with non-members subject to the normal guest fees.

Tournament Coordinator
Thomas M. Poor
243 Brigantine Circle
Norwell, MA 02061
(h) 781-826-2792
(f) 781-826-2792
e-mail: tpoor43@aol.com

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ MSRA#: _____

Address: _____ Division: _____

City: _____ Home Phone: _____

State: _____ Work Phone: _____

Zip: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Club/School: _____

Partner's Name: _____ MSRA#: _____

Work phone: _____ Club/School: _____

Home phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Upcoming Tournaments

MEN'S STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

February 5–April 10, 2003

Local Clubs

Skill Level 5.5 (A), 4.5 (B), 3.5 (C), 2.5 (D)

Age Groups 35+ through 70+

Contact: Fran Donlan

Phone: (W) 781 681-4928, (H) 781-749-3350

E-mail: Fran.Donlan@morganstanley.com

(See entry form on page 19.)

STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, WOMEN'S AGE GROUPS

February 5–April 10, 2003

Local clubs

Age Groups 35+, 45+

Contact: Hope Crosier

Phone: 617-723-5379

E-mail: hcrosier912@aol.com

(See entry form on page 19.)

A MATURE EVENT

February 7–9, 2003

The Maugus Club

Men 50+, 60+, 70+, Women 45+, A, B, C

Contact: Lewis Holmes

Phone: 617-726-1742

E-mail: holmes.lewis@mgh.harvard.edu

MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR CLOSED (GRAND PRIX EVENT)

February 28–March 2, 2003

Belmont Hill School

B & G Under 19, 17, 15, 13, 11

Contacts: John Ambielli & Paul Lesser

Phone: 617-498-0200

MSRA HARBALL DOUBLES STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 3–May 5, 2003

University Club

Men's A, B, C; 50+, 60+, Mixed

Contact: Tom Poor

Phone: 781-826-2792

E-mail: tpoor43@aol.com

(See entry form on page 20.)

STATE SOFTBALL DOUBLES

March 12–May 12, 2003

Concord-Acton Squash Club & The Maugus Club

A, B, C, 50+, 60+ Mixed

Contact: Lewis Holmes

Phone: 617-726-1742 (Lew)

E-mail: holmes.lewis@mgh.harvard.edu (Lew)

(See entry form on page 19.)

THE LEPRECHAUN

March 28–30, 2003

Concord-Acton Squash Club

Men's 5.5, 4.5, 3.5, 2.5, Women's 5.0, 4.0, 3.0

Contact: Paul Ansdell

Phone: 978-897-2972

E-mail: casc2@earthlink.net

MSRA LEAGUE KNOCKOUT CUP (GRAND PRIX EVENT)

March 28–30, 2003

Harvard University Muir Center

B & G Under 19, 17, 15, 13, 11

Chris Spahr 617-266-3233

E-mail: christianspahr@hotmail.com

STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, WOMEN'S SKILL LEVELS

April 4–5, 2003

Groton School

W 5.0 (A) 4.0 (B) 3.0 (C)

Contact: Hope Crosier

Phone: 617-723-5379

E-mail: hcrosier912@aol.com

MEN'S & WOMEN'S STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

April 10, 2003, 5:30 p.m.

The Harvard Club

All softball divisions, Men and Women

Contact: Fran Donlan

Phone: 781 681-4928

E-mail: Fran.Donlan@morganstanley.com

• MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION • MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION •

visit our website at www.ma-squash.org

Annual Adult Dues: **\$45** (includes 1 year membership to USSRA)

Life MSRA Dues: **\$400** (includes 1 year membership to USSRA in first year only)*

Annual Junior Dues: **\$35** (includes 1 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 -----

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 Please mail 1 copy to each member of household

----- THANK YOU -----

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

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** Checks made payable to: **MSRA**
P.O. Box 51611
Boston, MA 02205-1611

**PLEASE RENEW TODAY
THE NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS ALREADY UNDERWAY!!**



Third-place Howe Cup Boston C1 team (L-R): Bernadette Dixon, Catherine Kniker, Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Jennifer Moran, Kim Song.



The Howe Cup Boston C2 team before their last match (L-R): Jane Wiseman, Vicki Vento, Maria Mayorga, Sarah Lemaire, Azi Rahbar

MSRANews

MSRA News is published three times per year.

MSRA P.O. Box 51611 Boston, MA 02205-1611

EDITOR and LAYOUT: Sarah Lemaire
 PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION: PrintCentre, Inc.
 4 Arlington Road, Needham, MA 02492

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE: Wendy Ansdell, Jeannie Blasberg, Liz Brecht, Philip Constable, Casey Cortes, Joe Cortes, Sarah Cortes, Carl Cummings, Fran Donlan, Eric Godes, Simon Graham, Jason Hicks, Mike Loucks, Kate Lytle, Tom Poor, Barbara Rubin, Drew Webb.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Jeannie Blasberg, Paul Chastanet, Fran Donlan, and retiring editor Scott Stossel.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION may be obtained from P.O. Box 51611, Boston, MA 02205-1611, or membership@ma-squash.org or www.ma-squash.org.

Comments or suggestions may be addressed to: Sarah Lemaire, Editor, MSRANews, MSRANews@aol.com.

Squash Rules Trivia (Last Issue)

Last issue's Squash Rules Trivia scenario was as follows:

Jay and Toby are playing a point. Jay runs to the front corner to retrieve a drop shot, and his goggles fall off. He retrieves the drop, and Toby misses the next shot. Toby asks for a let because the falling goggles distracted him. What should the referee call?

The only correct answer to the above scenario was submitted by MSRA member **Jay Bradner** as follows: "Distractions can result in let (if the referee thinks the distraction was sufficient to interfere with the Toby's concentration) or stroke (if the distraction interfered with a winning shot). This is a minor distraction, and I bet would be at best awarded let. Truthfully, Toby should have not hit the ball with Jay's glasses off—better to serve up another point than to toil through life with monocular vision."

Jay was thrilled to receive a racquet generously donated to the MSRA by Wilson Sports. Jay plays on the Men's B team at The Harvard Club of Boston and he works as an oncology fellow at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Squash Rules Trivia (This Issue)

Want to prove your knowledge of squash rules? Play this issue's installment of the squash rules trivia challenge. Just read the following scenario and e-mail your answer to MSRANews@aol.com. The deadline for submitting answers will be March 15, 2003. One randomly drawn winner from among the correct respondents will win a squash racquet donated to the MSRA by Wilson Sports.

This issue's squash trivia question was submitted by **Daniel Sharplin**. Daniel hails from New Zealand, where he was national champion; he's the new squash pro at The Sports Club/LA in Boston.

Q: Bill and Bob are playing a match on a squash court with a very high ceiling. As a result, the lights are suspended and hang down a few feet. Bob plays a very high lob that goes above the height of the lights but between the lights, but it does not touch the lights. What should the referee do?

- a) Let the rally continue.
- b) Call the ball "out" and stop the rally.
- c) Wait for Bill to appeal and then play a let.