

# MSRANews

MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This marks the beginning of my second term as president of the MSRA (and without any help from the Supreme Court, I am pleased to say). Looking back over the last year, I am struck first by how quickly it passed. It seems like only yesterday that patient and beleaguered MSRANews editor **Sarah Lemaire** was nudging me to submit my first president's letter (perhaps because it was only yesterday that she was nudging me to get my copy in for this one).

Assessing the year, although I am not a doctor nor do I even play one on TV, I would like to think I fulfilled Hippocrates's dictum "at least to do no harm." (Apparently expressed somewhere other than in the Hippocratic Oath, as popularly believed, e.g., by me until I looked it up; but I digress.) This is a recipe for success because the people who do the heavy lifting, such as league coordinators **Eric Godes** and **Bry Rosko** and their respective league chairs, tournament coordinator **Fran Donlan**, Junior Committee co-chairs **Tom Poor** and **Jeannie Blasberg** and their committee, website/e-distribution guru **Paul Chastanet**, treasurer **Sam Magruder**, Yearbook producer-editor **Simon Graham**, and, of course, MSRANews editor **Sarah Lemaire**, do such great jobs that the best thing the president can do is just convince them to continue and stay out of the way.

But change is inevitable, of course, and healthy. As you'll read elsewhere in the News, even **Lew Holmes** has decided that 16 years as 50+ league chair feels about right. We express our thanks for their service to **Hope MacKay Crozier**, **Doug Eng** and **Mike Loucks**, who are departing the Executive Board (although Mike will continue to be active with the Junior Committee), and welcome **Sebastian Valdez**, **Paul Ansdell** and **Shona Kerr**.

Looking ahead, we're beginning an MSRA archives project, cataloging, collecting, storing and perhaps displaying MSRA-related historical documents. We want to reach out more to players at local schools and colleges (if we can negotiate the arcane rules of the NCAA). We expect to be working with the USSRA to provide more web-based services such as membership registration and information, player ratings and tournament draws and results, for its membership and ours. The U.S. Open is returning in September (see page 15), and we'll be helping there. The Howe Cup is in New York in October, and we expect to support a large local contingent. The USSRA Nationals will be at Harvard in March, and we'll be helping make it a great event. So we've made plenty of resolutions and, to paraphrase Mayor Menino, together we can get them done. Happy New Year!

Carl Cummings  
MSRA President

## Juniors in Boston for Tournaments

### First Annual Urban Youth Squash Team Nationals Held in Boston at SquashBusters

April 17 and 18, 2004 marked the first Annual Urban Youth Squash Team Nationals, hosted at the brand new Badger and Rosen SquashBusters Center at Northeastern University. The event brought together more than 100 middle school and high school aged squash players from five different urban squash programs from four different cities that together are changing the perception of squash and the lives of hundreds of urban youth along the East Coast.

SquashBusters in Boston; StreetSquash and CitySquash from New York City; SquashSmarts from Philadelphia; and KidzSquash from Poughkeepsie all entered multiple teams of 5 players in 4 different divisions (High School Boys, High School Girls, Middle School Boys, Middle School Girls). 115 players played 37 head-to-head five-person team matches (185 individual

matches in all) until the winning teams were decided on Sunday. CitySquash in New York won the Middle School Girls and Middle School Boys flights. StreetSquash took the High School Boys flight, and the SquashBusters High School Girls took their flight. The event was a highlight of the year for all those who were involved. The weekend marked high levels of solidarity, camaraderie, and rivalry but also raised the level of symbolism around urban squash as a whole.



Anyefry Sanchez and SquashBusters founder Greg Zaff consult during the Urban Nationals in Boston.



The SquashBusters Middle School team at the Urban Nationals (Counterclockwise from left): Mahmud Jalloh, Rodney Galvao, Eddie Gentle, SquashBusters Middle School Director of Squash Chris Smith, Jesse Brache, and Ronny Correla (with back facing camera)

It's appropriate that Boston hosted this first national event, since the first squash-based after-school program, SquashBusters, was started here in 1996 by **Greg Zaff**. SquashBusters' successful model of combining squash with academics, community service, and mentoring has been replicated in four different cities, and there are rumors there are many more to follow. The growth of urban squash around the country is a true testament to the SquashBusters program and all of its supporters, volunteers, and staff.

As if the team event wasn't enough, the Second Annual Urban Individual National Championships takes place June 11-14, when the 100+ kids descend on Groton to crown champions in eight different flights. Volunteers and fans are welcome.

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For more information about the event, visit the SquashBusters website at [www.squashbusters.org](http://www.squashbusters.org).

### USSRA Junior Championships Come to the Murr Center

When the squash tournament season begins in the fall, thousands of juniors from all over the country, boys and girls from U13 to U19, dream of the wins that will qualify them for the USSRA National Junior Closed. Only the top 32-ranked juniors of each division are invited to enter the national championships. This year's tournament was held March 12–14 at the 16-court Murr Center at Harvard University.

256 players entered the doors of the Murr Center. Eight would win. The excitement was palpable. Everything was on the line. The USSRA had staff and referees from around the country to run the premier tournament of the junior season.

By its sophisticated computer program, the USSRA ranks players throughout the season. The analysis used seeds the top 8 players in each division. The remaining 24 players are unseeded. You'd expect that if the seeding process was accurate, the finalists in each division would be the top-seeded players. When you examine the results, the accuracy of the seedings is eerie. All the finalists were highly seeded, and the winners of each division were seeded either #1 or #2. But, that's enough trolling by statistic wonks.

Not that the top seeds don't deserve their victories. Their talent, dedication, and preparation should be rewarded, but in any sport, there are stories of human interest that don't make the headlines but exemplify the bonds of friendship and camaraderie. There are many, for sure, but this is simply one.

From the same town in Massachusetts (Weston) and friends since early childhood, both unseeded, **Chessin Gertler** and **Jonathan Barry**, qualified for the BU19 division. Their bond of friendship grew over the years through their participation in junior squash. Both rose to play #1 for their respective schools and competed against each other a number of times in school competitions and in junior tournaments. The competition over the years, rather than creating distance between them, Spring 2004 MSRA News 2



Rodney Galvao and SquashBusters Middle School Academics Director Quaco Cloutterbuck take a break during the Urban Nationals.

drew them closer. This was to be their last tournament as juniors, as each will go on to college next year—Jon to Williams and Chessin to Harvard, inevitably to face each other on their college teams.

The draw for this tournament showed that Jon and Chessin would meet in the semifinals if they won their first two matches. Chessin won his first match in four games. Jon played the #5 seed; he won the first two games, but lost the next two. Both players were tired. Jon prevailed and, like Chessin, advanced to the quarterfinals.

Chessin faced the #1 seed, Christopher Gordon from New York. Gordon took the match in three. Jon faced the #4 seed, Edward Cerullo, also from New York, and Jon lost in four. Gordon beat Cerullo 3-0 in the semi-final and won the final, beating the #2 seed, Gilly Lane from Pennsylvania, in a very spirited, hard fought five-game match.

Chessin and Jon now both entered the quarterfinals of the consolation draw. If both won they would face one another in the semis, but Jon lost his match. Now out of the tournament, Jon joined the spectators at Chessin's matches. Between games, when Chessin would leave the court, Jon would walk with him, offering his encouragement and counsel. Chessin went on to win the consolation draw, in a very difficult, back-and-fourth five-game match against Verdi DiSesa II, from Pennsylvania, with Jon rooting for his friend. Chessin finished fifth in his division, ahead of those seeded #4 through #8.

Since the tournament season's end, Chessin and Jon have been seen several times practicing together, in preparation of the inevitable competition between them that will continue during their college years. Competitors on court, yes, but above all, friends.

As a final note, the USSRA's final rankings for 2003–2004 list **Chessin Gertler** #1 and **Jonathan Barry** as #9 in the country.

### MSRA Juniors in the Nationals

Of interesting note, perhaps a first for the USSRA and certainly a first for the MSRA, is the fact that three sets of sisters participated in the National Junior Closed: Alli and Krissy

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Mark Froot (BU17) gets ready for his next match during the USSRA Junior Nationals.



Jon Barry (BU19) discusses strategy with Harvard squash coaches, Satinder Bajwa (l) and Mohammed Ayaz (r) during the USSRA Nationals at the Murr Center.

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Rubin, Sarah and Rebecca Loucks, and Casey and Cece Cortes.

**GU13:** Five MSRA juniors participated in this division and had some tough matches. **Corey Shafer** lost to the #4 seed in the first round, as did **Courtney Jones** to the #6 seed. Each girl lost their second match but fought valiantly, bringing their matches to five. **Dori Rahbar** made it to the second round of the consolation draw before losing. **Casey Cortes**, seeded # 8, triumphed over **Sarah Loucks** in the quarterfinals of the main draw, only to lose in the quarterfinals of the consolation. Despite losing to Casey, Sarah marched along, winning two very hard-fought five game matches, and was a finalist in the consolation, placing sixth in the tournament.



Casey Cortes (GU13) poses during the USSRA Junior Nationals.

Casey Cortes (GU13) poses during the USSRA Junior Nationals.

**GU15:** **Alli Rubin**, who played in the under 15 division all tournament season, although she just recently turned 13, lost a robust four-game match in round two of the consolation round. **Cece Cortes**, #5 seed, won the finals of consolation, placing fifth for the tournament.

**GU17:** **Krissy Rubin**, the lone GU17 MSRA entrant in this division, lost in the round of 32 to the #6 seed. Krissy went on to play hard and smart, but was unsuccessful, in a four-game match in the consolation.

**GU19:** In this tough division, **Rebecca Loucks** lost her first match in four, won her next match in four, before losing in round 2 of the consolation. For Rebecca, this was her last tournament in the girls U19. She's leaving for Dartmouth this fall.



Krissy (GU17) (left) and Alli Rubin (GU13), one of three pairs of MSRA sisters who played in the USSRA Nationals. The others are Sarah (GU13) and Rebecca Loucks (GU19) and Casey (GU13) and Cece Cortes (GU15). Krissy, Alli, Sarah and Cece are all varsity players at Milton Academy.

Good luck and thanks for the excitement your play has generated over the years, and the example you've been to the younger players.

**BU13 & BU15:** There were no MSRA entrants in these divisions.

**BU17:** **Mark Froot** and **John Fulham IV**, teammates on the 2003–2004 ISL-winning Belmont Hill team, played each other in Round 2 of the consolation. Mark won that match, and went on to win the finals of the consolation, having fought two very hard fought five game matches. He placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the tournament.

**BU19:** See the beginning of this article.



Derek Aquirre, SquashBusters mentor Kevin King, and Kevin's mentee Eddie Gentle pose during the Urban Nationals.

## MSRA President's Award to Lew Holmes

The President's Award was instituted by Bob Bray when he was MSRA president to recognize service to the MSRA and the squash community at large. This year it was given to Lew Holmes. Lew is a life member of both the MSRA and USSRA and a long-time competitor and supporter of squash, but the award was made particularly to recognize his stalwart service as chair of the 50+ league. Lew had notified his league colleagues earlier that, after 16 years as league chair, this would be his last. He was practically the only chair the league has known, having taken the position in the league's second year, and his longevity alone would have been deserving of recognition, but it was the nature of the league that made Lew's guidance of it especially noteworthy.

Carl Cummings, MSRA President, in presenting the award at the MSRA annual meeting, tried to convey some of the flavor of the competition in the 50+ league by recounting a play-off match in which Lew fielded three phone calls to resolve disputes while the match was in progress and another in which Lew apologized for not being available by phone (because he was attending a different playoff match!) and said he should have given the captains his pager number. Cummings concluded, "The denomination '50+' implies that this is a league comprised of grown-ups and, in other contexts, I'm sure they are. But in this context, they needed a firm, judicious and equitable hand to steer them, and for 16 years they've had one."

# Junior News

## Junior Squash at the Badger & Rosen Center

by Hannah Coffin

Hi, I'm **Hannah Coffin**. On March 5–6, I participated in the Mass Junior Closed Tournament. It took place at the Badger & Rosen Squashbuster Center at 795 Columbus Avenue in Roxbury Crossing. Northeastern University generously donated some of their land for the Center to be built upon, and the new facility opened in July of 2003. This past weekend was my first time visiting, and I don't know about you, but I thought that it was a very nice building in a great location.

The Badger & Rosen Squashbuster Center has eight courts in all, with one three-glass wall court. All the courts are on the second floor, and the glass court can be seen from the sidewalk on the outside. This special court even has curtains that come down when the sun gets too bright. It is the first of its kind in the world. My first match took place on this court. I really enjoyed playing on the glass wall court, but some players said it was a bit distracting.

My other matches were played on traditional courts in the Center. The courts are light and airy with solid unstained wood floors. In addition to the courts, the Center has three classrooms, office space, locker rooms, and 8,000 sq. ft. of fitness space. Playing at and visiting the Badger & Rosen Squashbuster Center was really fun; I hope to play there again.



Hannah Coffin, MSRA Junior Player

## My Squashing Experiences

by Tod Holberton (Recent graduate from Boys U13)

I really like squash, and I am not that crazy about writing, but I thought I would give this a shot for the sake of the game.

A nice guy named **John Crockett** introduced me to squash when I was 9. I started as a way to exercise in the winter. Then I went to **Martha Soper's** summer camp for one week, and I was hooked. **Jon Barry** was a counselor and we learned a lot about the game and had fun too.

I entered a tournament that first year and realized it was one of the more serious games I had ever played. Team sports had always been my main focus, until squash. The game of squash has taught me about competing against others and not getting too mad at myself. My favorite part of squash is playing  $\frac{3}{4}$  court with friends or playing on the Concord-Acton team for the MSRA Junior League squash events. I also like participating in the Squads and the different coaches and their approaches.

My big brother Matt lives in Denver, Colorado and took up squash in his 20s, and we call him obsessed about it. I plan on beating him someday. Until then, I have had to be content with taking a game or two. (Matt doesn't help me win any points when I play him.)

This year I have played more and have worked with **Paul Ansdell** at CASC. There are some days that my feet work and my drop shots are sneaky, and some days I can't get my racquet to do what I want. I know my strengths and my weaknesses and I really know that I should work harder. Somedays I even start laughing and can't hit anything!

Most of all I have learned that squash is fun, challenging, strategic, and you meet lots of new friends.

## Behind the Scenes of a Squash Game

by Eliana Saltzman, MSRA Junior Player

Most people never see what happens before or after a squash match. I was lucky enough to witness the carefree and long-lasting friendship between **Sharon Bradey**, recently honored as the #1 coach of the US and former coach for the US women's squash team, and **Sarah Fitz-Gerald**, ranked #1 female squash player in the world. At the beginning of the year, they played each other in an exhibition match at the Harvard Club.

I was very excited to see Sharon and Sarah play, and hoped to learn from watching their game. But I learned more than just some cool squash techniques. I also learned the wonderful friendships great athletes can build. Sharon and Sarah started by recounting some favorite memories of one another, going back to their teen years in their homeland Australia. From an early age they competed against each other. Now, a few years later they've maintained their friendship, which has survived squash tournaments and the distance between two continents.

Squash is not only about winning and playing your best but also about building friendships with special people. Sharon and Sarah compete on the court and play a tough and fair game. Afterwards, they are still good friends and do not let the competition of a match interfere with their friendship. You never know, but one of your opponents might some day become your new best friend. Remember that sportsmanship not only improves the quality of the game, but it can also foster everlasting friendships.



## MSRA Juniors in the Final USSRA Rankings

*From the USSRA website*

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Girls Under 19</b>	
16	Rebecca Loucks	Boston
25	Elisabeth S. Berylson	Milton
35	Samantha Bendetson	Wellesley
42	Holly B. Crimmins	Beverly
*	Rebecca Perlman	Newton
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Girls Under 17</b>	
34	Krissy Rubin	Boston
*	Cece Cortes	Cambridge
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Girls Under 15</b>	
4	Cece Cortes	Cambridge
26	Alli Rubin	Boston
28	Maura Neal	Danvers
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Girls Under 13</b>	
6	Sarah Loucks	Boston
10	Casey Cortes	Cambridge
21	Dori Rahbar	Newton
25	Corey Schafer	Natick
26	Courtney B. Jones	Holden
30	Hannah Coffin	Chestnut Hill
*	Alli Rubin	Boston
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Boys Under 19</b>	
1	Chessin Gertler	Weston
9	Jonathan Barry	Weston
16	John Lingos-Webb	Milton
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Boys Under 17</b>	
4	Mark Froot	Sudbury
11	John N. Fulham IV	Wellesley
48	Christopher Vernick	West Roxbury
60	Alex Heitzman	Rehoboth
98	Ben DiCamillo	Wellesley
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Boys Under 15</b>	
45	Charles Gertler	Weston
46	Eric Jones	Holden
*	Barrett A. Takesian	Newton
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Boys Under 13</b>	
15	Will Sullivan	Milton
37	Tod Holberton	Lincoln
42	Samuel Sokolsky-Tiff	Williamstown
45	Julian Kirby	Dover
52	Liam W. McClintock	Wellesley
58	Michael Lillie	Weston
62	Peter Chase	Dover
66	Conor McClintock	Wellesley

\* Qualified for Nationals but played in less than four sanctioned tournaments.

### Correction From Last Issue

*Will Sullivan was inadvertently omitted from MSRA News winter issue's USSRA rankings. Will achieved a ranking of #8 in the USSRA as of 01/09/04.*

## MSRA Summer League Signups Due Soon!

*by Sam Magruder*

The third season for the MSRA Summer League is scheduled to start play on Wednesday, June 16, 2003. The ten-week season will end on August 18. The winner will be determined on the basis of best winning percentage over the full season. To keep as many people playing for the full season as possible, there will be no playoffs.

The format will be co-ed four-player teams competing on Wednesday evenings. Starting times (from 6:15 to 7 pm) are at the selection of the home club. Players of all skill levels are welcome, since we will again use handicaps to create more even competition.

In order to avoid defaults, teams are encouraged to find about eight players, because vacations typically reduce the number of players available for any given week. Most teams last year rotated all of their players into their lineups, since the handicapping system generally prevented differences in skill levels from deciding the outcome of the competition.

Matches will be played using the point-a-rally system to 15 points. Captains should consult with their local squash professionals for help in assigning Skill Level ratings to their teammates for the initial handicapping process. Changes will be made throughout the season based on match results and captain's recommendations.

The entry form for the MSRA Summer League is available on the MSRA website ([www.ma-squash.org](http://www.ma-squash.org)). Please fill it out as completely as possible and mail it to the Summer League Coordinator at the address on the form. A check payable to the MSRA for the \$100 per team entry fee should be enclosed. Entries must be received by Thursday, June 3 at the latest in order to leave time for handicapping and scheduling before the opening match. More detailed instructions and schedules will be sent to the Captains before the opening match. Any questions should be addressed to **Sam Magruder**, Summer League Coordinator, at [magruder@rcn.com](mailto:magruder@rcn.com).

## Do Accountants Play Squash?

Jeannie Blasberg, who is on the MSRA Executive Board and was formerly President of the MSRA, is also currently Treasurer of the USSRA. As Treasurer, she has undertaken to improve the presentation of the USSRA's financials and is looking for some professional input. If this is your area of expertise and you can help Jeannie with this project, please send a note to [membership@ma-squash.org](mailto:membership@ma-squash.org).

# Junior News



## US Junior National Team

SquashBusters' Chris Smith is the Assistant Coach for the US Junior National Team. MSRA juniors Chessin Gertler (above) and Jon Barry (below) were selected to the team.



## From the SquashBusters Students

*by Mikhail Darlington*

I have been playing squash for three years, and squash has influenced me greatly. I have played in the MSRA tournaments. They have taught me how to be competitive and show sportsmanship at the same time. Through my wonderful program SquashBusters, and my great coach Orla O'Doherty, I have learned to play the game of squash and improved my play over the years. They have taught me how to try hard at everything I do. I have been able to use these lessons on court and really start to improve my game.

Through SquashBusters and the MSRA, I have become a better person both on and off court.

*by Monete Johnson*

My experiences in SquashBusters have made me into the person I am today. But it's not because of the program itself; however, it does have a lot to do with it.

I think that SquashBusters has helped me because of the people I meet through the program like the staff, my teammates, the people we play at tournaments, and the people we meet on trips. The staff here and my teammates have become more like family than just associates that I can talk to, and relate to. The people we meet at tournaments, like Junior League, the Mass Junior Open, and the Mass Junior Closed, have given me a new perspective on the game of squash and in the game of life. The people I have met on our numerous trips, outings, and community service projects have each brought me a new view of life or information that will help me in the years to come.

## MSRANews

MSRA News is published three times per year.

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EDITOR and LAYOUT: Sarah Lemaire

PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION: PrintCentre, Inc.  
4 Arlington Road, Needham, MA 02492

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE: Hannah Coffin, Philip Constable, Carl Cummings, Mikhail Darlington, Fran Donlan, Eric Godes, Simon Graham, Tod Holburton, Kevin Hollister, Lew Holmes, Monete Johnson, Sam Magruder, Tom Poor, Bry Roskoz, Elaina Saltman, Phoebe Slanetz. Special thanks to Azi Rahbar, Chris Smith, and Jim Sullivan for their significant contributions to the junior section.

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# MSRA League News

## Open 5.5

*Philip Constable, League Chair*

The level of play in the Open 5.5 league reached new heights with the addition of **Daniel Sharplin**, **Parth Doshi**, **Vineet Asthana**, **Neal Vohr**, **Piercarlo Valdesolo**, and the increased play of **Mark Lewis**. But it was a group of old-timers who won the crown.

Consolidating last year's two teams into one, the **University Club** used its impressive depth to dominate the regular season and capture their first league title in 4 years with a 4-1 victory over **Concord-Acton** in the finals. Led by league veterans **Jason Hicks**, **Doug Lifford**, **Scott Poirier** and **Dave Adams**, the squad overwhelmed the opposition in the regular season, winning 50 matches and only losing 10. Both Poirier and Adams went undefeated during the regular season and playoffs. **David Adams** finished an impressive 17-0 *without dropping a game!* That's right. 51 games won. Zero lost. Poirier went 11-0, but did let 6 games slip away. With **Rohan Bhappu** (semi-finalist in the states) and **Sal Llach** (18-3 lifetime league record) waiting in the wings, the University Club may be on the verge of a dynasty.

In the finals, **Jason Hicks** toppled **Neal Vohr** 3-0, **Doug Lifford** prevailed over **Jim Usherwood** 3-2 (the third time Doug defeated Jim this year), and **David Adams** finished out his perfect season with a 3-0 win over **Dave Atkins**. Only **Adam Viljoen** was able to break through for Concord-Acton with a 3-0 win over **John Connolly**.

Concord-Acton reached the finals with a first-round thumping of BSC (2001, 2002 champions). In the second round, Concord-Acton prevailed over SquashBusters (playing without **Lucky Odeh**) in a tight match that turned on **Jim Usherwood's** 5-game thriller over **Piercarlo Valdesolo**. Only **Parth Doshi** managed a point for SquashBusters with his 3-0 win over **Neal Vohr**.

The University Club pounded **Sports Club/LA** without dropping a game in the first round then faced the veteran squad from the Union Boat Club. Playing without **Doug Lifford**, the boys from the UClub narrowly squeezed out a victory on games. A fired-up **Scott Poirier** defeated **Tyler Hindermann** 3-0. **David Adams** did the predictable and won 3-0 over **Philip Constable**. UBC picked up a 3-0 win courtesy of **Charlie Forbes** over **John Connolly**. In a battle of #1s, **Mark Lewis** won the match, but **Jason Hicks** slipped in a game to give the UClub the edge.

The states proved a cakewalk for newcomer and former New Zealand champion **Daniel Sharplin** (squash pro at the T&R) who ended **Lucky Odeh's** two-year reign. Daniel coasted through the tournament without dropping a game.

Lucky remains the top-ranked player in the league (Daniel did not qualify for ranking). Other than the loss to Sharplin in the finals, Lucky's record was unblemished. Ranked at #2 was newcomer **Parth Doshi** (Williams 1<sup>st</sup> team All-American), who

posted an 11-1 record. Ranked #3 is **Jason Hicks**, whose only losses came against **Lucky Odeh**, **Daniel Sharplin**, and **Mark Lewis**. At #4 is **Irfan Chaudhary**, who boasts a win against **Parth Doshi** and losses only to Odeh, Sharplin, and Lewis. An injury in the state tournament hurt his chances for a higher ranking. At #5 is **Mike Semprucci**, whose world-class fitness propelled him to an 11-3 league record and tournament wins at the University Club Open and the January Thaw. At #6 is former state champ **Ali Merchant** (who has also been ranked #1 three times). At #7 is newcomer (though he's no spring chicken) **Neal Vohr**, who, among other accomplishments, took down **Mike Semprucci** in the regular season. At #8 is **David Adams**, who not only had a perfect season but was also a finalist at the Wheeler Cup / Middlesex Bowl and a finalist at the University Club Open. At #9 is **Jim Usherwood**, who won the Wheeler Cup/Middlesex Bowl. And finally at #10 is **Scott Poirier**, who was 11-0 in league play and a finalist in the 35's.

Insufficient play kept **Daniel Sharplin**, **Mark Lewis**, **Rohan Bhappu**, newcomer **Vineet Asthana**, **Briggs Johnson**, and **Doug Lifford** from being ranked.

Team	Points	% of points Won
University Club	63	84.0%
SquashBusters	47	67.1%
Concord-Acton	48	64.0%
Tennis & Racquet	44	58.7%
Union Boat Club	41	58.6%
Boston Sports Club	40	57.1%
MIT	38	54.3%
Sports Club LA	30	40.0%
Boston Racq. Club	25	33.3%
Harvard Club	16	22.9%
Harvard BS	8	10.7%

## Open 4.5

*by Eric Godes, League Chair*

Another exciting season for the Open 4.5 league ended on March 31, as **Concord-Acton** was crowned as the first repeat champion in recent memory. Coming off a fantastic 2002-2003 campaign, the entire league was gunning for them from the outset. True to form, however, Concord-Acton employed some shrewd off-season recruiting and strengthened an already dominant squad. The result was another near-undefeated season and an impressive run through the playoffs.

The **Harvard Club** and **Boston Athletic Club** shared this year's most improved team award. Both teams had their share of struggles in recent years, but put together a solid effort this season. The Harvard Club played strong throughout the campaign, as previous years' late-season swan dives never occurred. The BAC took a different route to their most improved award by completing an average season followed by an excep-

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# MSRA League News *(continued)*

tional run through the playoffs. Only the juggernaut at Concord-Acton kept them from the ultimate reward.

Not to be overlooked this past year was the oft-forgotten crew at **Longfellow Sudbury**. Although not long in numbers, this suburban group regularly shows grit and determination and completed another fine year, ending the regular season in second place. Finally, honorable mention goes to the United Nations of the league in **Healthpoint**, who once again proved they are not a team that can be taken lightly. Ending the regular season as the number 4 seed was no fluke, as this group proved basketball isn't the only premier sport played at their facility.

On the individual side of the ledger, the league saw a number of stars in the making. None was more impressive than **John Gillooly**, this year's state champion, or the ageless **Mark Dickenson** who both clearly rose to the top of the rankings. As a reward, both have been promoted to the Open 5.5 league play where they can test their mettle against the state's finest.

Thanks to all who played in this, the state's largest league, and congratulations to the winners. Plans are already underway for another full slate of matches next year.

Team	Points	% of points Won
Concord-Acton	67	78.8%
Longfellow Sudbury	59	73.8%
Harvard Club	47	62.7%
Union Boat Club	47	62.7%
HealthPoint	49	61.3%
Boston Ath.	50	58.8%
MIT	44	58.7%
University Club	40	57.1%
Maugus Club	41	54.7%
Boston Sports Club	38	54.3%
Boston Racquet	21	30.0%
Andover Racquet	19	27.1%
Cambridge Racquet	17	24.3%
Tennis & Racquet	12	17.1%
Harvard BS	8	11.4%

## Open 4.0

*Kevin Hollister, League Chair*

The debut season of the Open 4.0 league was a success by all measures. The nine-team league was competitive, both from a team and an individual perspective, replete with noteworthy performances on the courts, memorable social events off the courts and developing rivalries to look forward to next season. All of the teams put forth noble efforts and will be ready in October to do it all over again, I'm sure.

This season was a test of sorts to determine whether there was enough interest and critical mass to sustain another league. I was concerned that there would be a wide disparity in individual skill levels, with some players moving up or down a

level from another league to find a comfortable place to play, at the risk of having very uneven talent across the league. Happily, this did not occur, as I was constantly surprised at some of the match scores that were reported throughout the season.

As the playoffs approached, I thought it would be a fairly predictable outcome. The **Union Boat Club** and **Concord-Acton** were at the top of the league all season, and although the **Maugus Club** and the **University Club** started gaining ground on them, **MIT** and the **Harvard Club** finished the season strongly, and it was difficult to tell what might happen in the playoffs. As it turned out, the top four teams did advance, so it seemed as though the final two teams would fall into place as well. In the semi-finals, Union Boat used their home-court advantage to beat Maugus 5-0, but in the other match, the University Club, perhaps energized by a long trip out to Concord-Acton, routed the regular-season champions in a 4-1 home-court defeat.

All this set up an all-Boston final with the Union Boat Club playing host to the University Club. All of the signs were there: the University Club had gotten off to a rocky start, had only four players qualify for the playoffs and were playing away from home. So it was not surprising to me to see the match score come in at 5-0. But what was this? The University Club won? I know they have a flair for drama, but they outdid themselves this time! Congratulations to the University Club for winning the first Open 4.0 league championship.

This season would not have been possible without the steadfast efforts of the team captains. Even working with the disadvantage of having a league coordinator who responded too slowly to questions and couldn't post the scores on the MSRA web site until the day before the next matches, they were always there for their teams. A few personal comments:

- A special thank you to the captains of **Sports Club/LA** and the **University Club** for coming through when they were needed by the league.
- The team from **Milton Academy** (the only in any of the leagues from Milton Academy) deserves a plaudit here as I think (or at least hope) that they have found their place in the Open 4.0 league.
- Thanks to all of the MSRA folks who provided guidance and advice throughout the season.

I hope everyone is looking forward to next season as much as I am for some great socializing, keen competition and of course, very exciting squash.

Team	Points	% of points Won
Concord-Acton	55	73.3%
Union Boat Club	54	72.0%
Maugus Club	41	54.7%
University Club	41	54.7%
MIT	40	50.0%

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# MSRA League News *(continued)*

Harvard Club	36	48.0%
HealthPoint	28	37.3%
Milton Academy	23	30.7%
Sports Club / LA	21	28.0%

## Open 3.5

*Simon Graham, League Chair*

The second half of the season was a continuation of the action, with the top-10 teams all very close and juggling for position in the playoffs. After a perfect first half, league leaders **Concord-Acton** dropped a few matches but had an unassailable lead and finished up the regular season in first place. Meanwhile, **Tennis & Racquet** maintained their excellent play and their second-place position, keeping ahead of MIT, **Boston Athletic Club**, **Healthpoint**, and **Longfellow**. **Cambridge Racquet & Fitness** also continued to play well and by two-thirds of the way through the second half, these seven teams were guaranteed places in the playoffs. The last playoff spot remained in doubt until almost the end with the **Maugus Club**, **University Club**, and **Harvard Business School** teams all within range. In the end, Maugus managed to pull ahead to take 8<sup>th</sup> position.

In the quarterfinals, play went with the seedings, except for Cambridge Racquet, who pulled out a surprise victory over Longfellow, with CRFC captain **Harold Helson** winning a crucial game in his 1-3 loss to Longfellow captain **Jim Ogletree**.

In the semifinals, Concord-Acton met Healthpoint in a replay of the second half match—this time, the Concord team was determined not to lose on points and took the match 4-1. Meanwhile, Tennis & Racquet took on Cambridge Racquet and won equally convincingly, also taking the match 4-1.

The final then was between the top two seeds, T&R and Concord-Acton, and was played at the Concord club. The two teams had played twice during the season and split the results, with CASC winning 5-0 early in the season and T&R winning 3-2 in the second half.

The evening started off with CASC #2 **Kevin Hollister** playing **Chris Bettencourt**. After starting slowly and losing the first game, Chris woke up in the second game, taking it closely, then stormed through the third game, hardly letting Kevin into the match. The fourth game was closer, but after a couple of saves by Kevin, Chris won the game and match, 3-1.

Meanwhile, on the other court, T&R's #1 **Matt Gibbs** was playing **Christophe Dupupet** who had recently jumped ahead of the Concord team ladder to take the number one spot by beating both **Kevin Hollister** and **Phil Strahan** in the Leprechaun tournament. This was a match of attrition, with incredibly long points; both players absolutely refusing to give up on anything. In the end, Christophe "the Energizer™" won the match 3-1, which tied the evening.

Next up, CASC #4 **Beth Snell** took on **Bruce Chafee**—

another two players who just never know when to give up. As always, Beth gave 110%, but this time it just wasn't enough and Bruce took the match 3-1.

Meanwhile, in the last match of the night, T&R #3 **Larry Wenglin** took the court with **Phil Strahan**. Phil quickly took a 2-0 lead in games, at which point the previous match was over. Phil likes pressure, so we quickly went and told him in the intermission that he had to win 3-0 in order for CASC to win the league—this certainly had the desired affect, and he quickly moved ahead. However, I suspect the T&R captain had also had a word with his player, because Larry fought hard and managed to claw a few points back, saving several match points. After about 10 nail-biting minutes, Phil was finally able to play that winning shot, and he won the match 3-0 and the league championship for Concord-Acton by one game.

Team	Points	% of points Won
Concord-Acton	77	85.6%
Tennis & Racquet	66	73.3%
Longfellow Club	58	68.2%
HealthPoint	60	66.7%
MIT	54	63.5%
Cambridge Racquet	49	54.4%
Boston Ath. Club	39	45.9%
Maugus Club	33	38.8%
University Club	26	32.5%
Harvard BS	24	30.0%
Sports Club/LA	13	16.3%
Harvard Club	8	10.0%

## Open 2.5

*Carl Cummings, League Chair*

**Tennis & Racquet** led wire-to-wire to take first place in the regular season and then went on to win the 2.5 league championship in the playoffs, although not without challenge. Going into the last regular season match, four teams had the potential to finish in first place, but T&R swept its last match (vs. **Andover Racquets**) to secure the top seed for the playoffs.

In the first round of the playoffs, T&R showed its strength by defeating eighth place finisher **Longfellow** without dropping a game. Because the MSRA league rules mandate that playoffs be played on full international courts, second place **Cambridge Racquet** had to cede its home court rights to its opponent, seventh seed **Union Boat Club**, and UBC took full advantage to stage the upset. Third place **FoMaMA (Milton Academy)** squeaked by **Boston Racquet Club** on points, 101-92. Andover's loss in the last regular season match had knocked it down into fifth place, so it had to travel to fourth place **Concord-Acton** to right itself, 3-1.

The semifinals featured one close match and one very close match. Andover had to make the long trek to Milton Academy but its efforts were rewarded as it prevailed over FoMaMA

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# MSRA League News *(continued)*

on games, 8-7. In the other semi, UBC, notorious for starting slowly, picked up enough steam over the season to make it into the playoffs and then turned on the jets (when all you see is steam, who expects jets?) to give T&R its toughest challenge. The No. 1 and 3 matches both went to five games, each team winning one, while the No. 2 and No. 4 matches were settled in three games each but were also split between the teams. Abacuses were brought out and when all the beads had been moved, T&R had survived, 106 points to 102. As T&R captain **Justin Bond** reported, "Just a couple nicks or shots into the tin separated these two teams. It could have gone either way."

The finals were hard-fought but somewhat anticlimactic, as T&R and Andover reprised their regular season finale with the same result, 4-0 and the championship for T&R. Congratulations to captain **Justin Bond** (who later went on to win the MSRA state 2.5 championship and secure the No. 1 ranking in the 2.5s) and his teammates, **Jerry Facey**, **Jim Hinchley**, **Hall Jones** and **Jay Sarzen**.

Team	Points	% of points Won
Tennis & Racquet	57	76.0%
Cambridge Racquet	51	72.9%
Friends of Millet @ Milton	51	68.0%
Concord-Acton	45	64.3%
Andover Racquets Club	48	64.0%
Boston Racquet Club	46	61.3%
Longfellow Club	42	56.0%
Union Boat Club	42	56.0%
University Club	33	44.0%
HealthPoint	29	41.4%
Harvard Business School	14	20.0%
Harvard Club	14	20.0%
Boston Boasts (YMCA)	3	4.0%
Sports Club L/A	0	0.0%

## Men's 50+

*Lew Holmes, League Chair*

The 50+ league expanded to seven teams this year with the addition of HealthPoint, with **Martin Tallent** as captain. The captains at **Concord-Acton (Steve Steinberg)**, **Boston Racquet (Mike MacDonald)** and **Union Boat (Jonathan Smith)** recruited talented new players who had turned 50 recently. As a result, there was a very competitive contest for the top two positions in the regular season, which means home court advantage. In spite of not having home court advantage, the **Harvard Club** team (**Fraser Walsh**, Captain) beat **Milton** in the first round, **Union Boat Club** in semi-finals, and **Concord-Acton Squash Club** in the final.

This was my sixteenth and final year as Coordinator of the 50+ League. The continued addition of top-rate new 50-year-olds makes me optimistic about the league's continued success. I hope my successor, **Sam Magruder** (Harvard Club),

will be able to recruit new teams from other clubs such as University Club and Tennis and Racquet Club.

I thank very much the captains with whom I have worked over these 16 years. We've had few "issues" develop, which probably explains why many captains have served for several years. This is also remarkable in view of the highly competitive nature of many of the players, i.e., it doesn't go away with age.

And, most of all, I thank Rosanna Greco and Phyllis Dennehy, secretaries in my office, who have sent out many, many e-mails and lists of handicaps and answered many telephone calls from 50+ players. They made my job much easier and made me appear to be efficient.

Best wishes to Sam and all of the players for the 2004-2005 season.

Team	Points	% of points Won
Union Boat Club	38	73.1%
Boston Racquet Club	34	65.4%
Concord-Acton	38	63.3%
Harvard Club	30	50.0%
Milton	25	48.1%
Maugus Club	16	30.8%
Healthpoint	7	14.6%

## Women's 3.5+

*Bry Roskoz, League Chair*

**Concord-Acton** hosted the **University Club** for the Women's 3.5 league finals. Concord-Acton had the best season record, winning 70% of possible league points, compared to the University Club's 67% of points, which put them closely in second place.

It was a lively evening, especially since CASC pro **Paul Ansdell** drummed up major support for his team by offering up free beer to anyone coming to cheer the Concord-Acton team on. Unfortunately, even free beer and the loud cheers of the Concord-Acton spectators weren't enough to stop the UClub from a 4-0 win.

Although the University Club won all four matches, the play was very competitive. At #1, **Tina Wu** (C-A) got a game off of **Kate Lytle** (UClub) before succumbing to Kate, 3-1. In the #2 spot, the two league lefties, **Margo Grossberg** (C-A) and **Liz Steffey** (UClub) battled it out—both admitting that it was rather strange to play against a leftie. (Now they know how the rest of us feel!) Liz won 3-0. At #3, **Neely Steinberg** (UClub) beat **Kara Kardon** (C-A) 3-0, but had many marathon points along the way—both players got a great workout. And at #4 **Naomi Bradshaw** (C-A), potentially the league's most improved player this year, got a game off of **Bry Roskoz** (UClub), but eventually yielded 3-1.

Afterward the Concord-Acton team hosted the University Club for wine, cheese and Doritos (we won't say which

# MSRA League News *(continued)*

lefties ate an entire bowl of chips), as well as brainstorming on potential dates for the single players! It was a fun end to a great season.

Congratulations to all of the league players who have contributed to their teams' success this season!

The Women's 3.5 state tournament was high caliber, with challenging matches throughout the main and consolation draws. The finals ended with **Neely Steinberg** avenging prior losses to **Pam "Energizer Bunny" Larson** with a 3-0 win. In the 3.5 consolation finals, **Alison Amherst** and **Kara Kardon** battled it out for every point in a five-game nailbiter, with Alison finally winning 3-2."

Team	Points
Concord-Acton	42 points
University Club	40 points
Harvard Club	32 points
Boston Sports Club	7 points



Women's 3.5 League Champions and Runners-Up: Back Row (L-R): Liz Steffey (UC), Kara Kardon (CASC), Bry Roskoz (UC), Kate Lytle (UC). Front Row (L-R): Neely Steinberg (UC), Margo Grossberg (CASC), Tina Wu (CASC), Naomi Bradshaw (CASC)

## Women's 2.5

*Phoebe Slanetz, League Chair*

The Women's 2.5 league season was a great success this year. Nine teams and over 70 players were in the league this year, which meant some tough new competitors. **Cambridge @ Murr**, one of three new teams formed this year, won the league against the defending league champions from last season, **Healthpoint**.

The Cambridge @ Murr team completed the season undefeated, only dropping three games the entire season. **Concord-Acton** came close to a win against Cambridge @ Murr, and

the **T&R** managed to get a game off of Cambridge @ Murr. Not surprising then, Concord-Acton and the T&R were the two other teams in the official playoffs.

**Deborah Ellinger** pulled together a team from the **Maugus Club** this year. Maugus developed a rotation system to give every player equal playing time. **Kerry Wellington**, **Becky Lingard**, and **Lucy Bradley** were all forces to be reckoned with. The Maugus Club won in the consolation playoffs against **Cambridge Racquet**.

The **Harvard Club** missed their #1 player from last season, but **Jane Wiseman** and others stepped up to the plate and the team had a respectable showing under **Azi Rahbar**. The **SportsClub/LA** participated in the league for the first time this year, and rumor has it the **University Club** may organize some casual matches over the summer.

Thank you to the following Women's 2.5 League captains (**Dominique Farinaux-Dumas**, Cambridge @ Murr; **Lee Hunnewell**, T&R; **Jane Adams**, Healthpoint; **Jennifer Moran**, Concord-Acton; **Deborah Ellinger**, Maugus Club; **Azi Rahbar**, Harvard Club; **Maria Mayorga**, Cambridge Racquet; **Margot Mims** and **Trish Boffoli**, SportsClub LA; and **Noelle Shiland**, University Club) and to all the players who made this league happen this season.

Team	Points	% of points Won
Cambridge @ Murr	67	95.7%
Tennis & Racquet	50	71.4%
HealthPoint	49	68.6%
Concord-Acton	43	61.4%
Maugus Club	41	54.7%
Harvard Club	29	41.4%
Sports Club/LA	18	25.7%
Cambridge Racquet	17	24.3%
University Club	7	9.3%



Women's 2.5 League Champions and Runners-Up: Back Row (L-R): Jamie Banks (HP), Liz Lambert (Murr), Jane Adams (HP), Diana Smith (HP), Kami Guerrier (HP). Front Row (L-R): Bernadette Dixon (Murr), Kim Song (Murr), Dominique Farinaux-Dumas (Murr)

# Tournament Results

SquashBusters Open January 30–February 1, 2004	A Mature Event (Fifth Annual) February 7–8, 2004	The Leprechaun Concord-Acton Squash Club March 27–29, 2004
<p><b>Open 5.5:</b> Parth Doshi def. Vinay Asthana, 3-2</p> <p><b>Open 4.5:</b> Ric Calvillo def. Pat Cosquer, 3-1</p> <p><b>Open 3.5:</b> Richard Gammon def. Louis Crosier (W/D)</p> <p><b>Open 50+ (Round Robin):</b> 1st: Ron Beck 2nd: Jonathan Smith</p> <p><b>Women's 2.0–2.5:</b> Elisa Melendez def. Nathalie Fontanez, 3-0</p> <p><b>Women's 3.0–3.5:</b> Liz Lambert def. Dominique Farinaux-Dumas</p> <p><b>Women's 4.0–4.5: (Round Robin)</b> 1st: Wendy Irwin 2nd: Bry Roskoz</p> <p><b>Women's 5.0–5.5:</b> Hope Prochop def. Sue Lawrence</p>	<p><b>Men's 50+:</b> Jeff Blomstedt def. Dan Hogan</p> <p><b>Men's 60+:</b> (Two newly eligible finalists!) Wayne Hodges def. Jon Smith</p> <p><b>Men's 70+:</b> 1st place: Lee Engler 2nd place: Bill Sprout</p> <p><b>Women's 35 +:</b> 1st place: Kerrie Wellington 2nd place: Becky Lingard</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Special thanks to the folks who worked hard to make the Maugus Club's Mature Event such a terrific success: Lee Engler, Richard Houde and Merrill Martin.</p> </div>	<p><b>Open 5.5:</b> Vineet Asthan def. Vinay Asthana, 3-1</p> <p><b>Open 4.5:</b> Jeff Gillooly def. Shashank Mallick, 3-0</p> <p><b>Open 3.5:</b> Tim Arnold def. Christophe Dupupet, 3-2</p> <p><b>Open 2.5:</b> Jay Sarzen def. Mike Semprucci, 3-0</p> <p><b>Women's 4.0 (Round Robin):</b> 1st: Neely Steinberg 2nd: Bry Roskoz 3rd: Kara Kardon</p> <p><b>Women's 3.0:</b> Dominique Farinaux-Dumas def. Bernadette Dixon, 3-1</p> <p>3-4 Playoff: Bev Pankrat def. Laurie Manos, 3-2</p>

## MSRA State Championships

The State Championship Finals took place on April 15 at the Badger and Rosen SquashBusters Center. Here are the results of those matches:

Women's 2.5: Suzy Schwartz def. Liz Lambert, 3-2  
 Women's 3.5: Neely Steinberg def. Pam Larson, 3-0  
 Women's 4.5: Hope Prockop def. Shona Kerr, 3-1  
 Women's 35+: Hope Prockop def. Wendy Ansdell, 3-0  
 Open 5.5: Daniel Sharplin def. Lucky Odeh, 3-0  
 Open 4.5: John Gilooly def. Brian Roberts, 3-0  
 Open 3.5: Philip Strahan def. Jordan Berns, 3-0  
 Open 2.5: Justin Bond def. Fred Eustis, 3-0  
 Men's 65+: Doug Lee def. John O'Brien, 3-0  
 Men's 60+: Dan Hogan def. Wayne Hodges, 3-0  
 Men's 55+: Fran Donlan def. Jeff Blomstedt, 3-0  
 Men's 50+: Malcolm Davidson def. Ron Beck, 3-1  
 Men's 45+: Tyler Hindermann def. Philip Constable, 3-0  
 Men's 40+: Tyler Hindermann def. Scott Poirier, 3-0

Special thanks to the following people for refereeing those matches: Dave Adams, Wendy Ansdell, Philip Constable, Simon Graham, Dan Hogan, Jonathan Kelly, Shona Kerr, Mark Lewis, Nat Lovell, Sam Magruder, Orla O'Doherty, Hope Prockop, Dan Reagan, and Chris Spahr.

# 2004 MSRA Doubles State Championships

by Tom Poor

The 2004 MSRA State Doubles Championships featured two striking characteristics: four of the seven divisions were won by unseeded teams, and a rash of injury defaults had major impacts on the draws. The success of the unseeded teams was due either to an up and coming surge of new players or a lousy seeding job by the Committee. There is, however, no explanation for the injuries. Perhaps it was just one of those years.

The first match of the finals gave a hint of things to come. The 50+ defending champions, **Tom Poor & Len Bernheimer**, defaulted when Lenny was struck in the eye while playing in the Worlds. Fortunately, his glasses saved more serious damage, and he will recover. That default eased the way for the second-seeded team and 2001 champions, **Mac Davidson & Fran Donlan**. Not to be, however, for they were waylaid in the semifinals by the new 50's entry of **Sandy Tierney & John Connolly** who continued on to victory in the finals over **Chipp Adams & Peter Gordon** in four games. All was not lost for Chipp, however, for after the last point, on bended knee he asked **Vicki Shemin** to be his wife. She said she would have been more inclined to accept if he'd won.

Tierney moved on promptly to his second final, teaming with **Jessie Chai** to win their fourth Mixed Doubles crown, handily defeating **Annette Andruss & John Nimick** in three. Tierney & Chai had not won since 2000, but two-time defending champions, **Mary McKee & Doug Lifford**, could not play this year. Mary's twin sister, **Berkeley Revenaugh**, moved to Boston last fall and was seeded second with her husband **Ross**. Unfortunately, Berkeley fell ill during the semifinal and was forced to default.

The B draw was a wide-open donnybrook. None of the four seeded teams made it past the quarterfinals. Former champions **Gerry Kirschner & Jeff Rodman** were ushered out in the quarters by 2002 champion **Rob Dewees** playing with new partner **John Palfrey**. Last year's finalists, **Chipp Adams & Adam Simms**, were also dismissed in the quarters in three quick ones by **Josh Greenhill & Joe Cortes**, Dewees' former partner. They in turn were dumped by Harvard Club pro **Sharon Bradey & Len Zide**. Last year's champion, **Joe Swan**, played with **John Connolly** and bowed to **Pepper Riley & Tyler Hill**. Emerging from this confusion was the Dewees-Palfrey tandem with a close four game finals win over Bradey & Zide.



Mixed Finalists: John Nimick, Annette Andruss, Jessie Chai, Sandy Tierney



60s finalists: Peter Laird, Tom Poor, Peter Marx, Dave Murphy & Meredith Johnson and

top half from a default from top seeds **Tony Jerauld & Peter Coffin** who pulled a groin a few days before.

for the first time, enough women entered to stage a Women's draw. **Jeannie Blasberg & Orla O'Doherty** of SquashBusters pulled the first upset with a win over Roskoz & Johnson. Their run ended in the semis at the hands of twins **Berkeley Revenaugh & Mary McKee**. **Dianne Smith & Hope Crosier** squeezed into the finals with a narrow four game victory over **Liz Steffey & Kate Lytle**. The twins then reaffirmed their national ranking by taking the final match in four games.

Sandy returned for his third final, in the As. His partner, **Patrick Malloy**, a senior and captain of national champs Trinity and a rapidly improving doubles player. They narrowly escaped in the semis with a 15-13 5<sup>th</sup> game win over the tournament's dark horses, T&R pro **Daniel Sharplin** and asst. University Club pro **Jason Hicks**. That duo had won in five over Poor & professional partner **Viktor Berg** in the first round, then squeezed by with a 17-15 5<sup>th</sup> game win over **Phil Constable & 2003 champion Derrick Niederman** before dying by the 5<sup>th</sup> game sword to Tierney & Malloy. In the bottom half, Bernheimer again had to default to **Alex Dean & Ming Tsai**, who in turn defaulted in the 5<sup>th</sup> to **Jack Wyant & Ross Revenaugh** when Ming pulled a muscle. Wyant & Revenaugh had ousted 4-time champs **Doug Lifford & Jamie Fagan** in the quarters in four close games. The Tierney-Malloy/Wyant-Revenaugh final saw a somewhat fatigued Tierney slowly succumb to Revenaugh's forehand rockets, which negated Sandy's deadly reverse and occasionally passed Patrick. The new and once again unseeded champions were crowned in four.

So the winners can crow for the summer while the losers lick their wounds and the injured heal theirs. There were 139 players this year, the largest number ever. Many younger players such as **Jon Hyett, David Adams** and **Patrick Malloy** are making ripples. The larger numbers and the emergence of these younger players bode well for the future of the doubles game in Boston.

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## 2004 Ellen Borie Trophy Awarded to Jeannie Blasberg

The Ellen Borie trophy is awarded each year by the MSRA to an individual who has made significant contributions to women's squash and the Massachusetts squash community. **Ellen Borie** was a graduate student in mathematics at Harvard and had great squash potential when she was killed in a car accident in 1970 after being on the Boston squash scene for only a year and a half. In 1971 an award was named in her honor for the good sportsmanship, potential and spirit she exhibited.

The recipient of this year's Ellen Borie Trophy is **Jeannie Blasberg**. Although we don't typically award the Ellen Borie Trophy to a current MSRA Board member, after hearing all of her contributions, you'll agree that this award is very appropriate.

Jeannie's squash career started when her husband John taught her squash as a junior at Smith College. She made the varsity team the following year and hasn't looked back (as those of you who know Jeannie know, when she pursues something she gives 100%). To give you an idea of Jeannie's contributions (and I'm sure I've missed something—it's a long list):

- o Jeannie has been an active member of the MSRA Board since 1998:
  - o Secretary, 1998-1999
  - o Women's League Coordinator, 1999-2000
  - o Vice President, 2000-2001
  - o President, 2001-2003
  - o And currently serves as Past President and USSRA liaison
- o For the last year, Jeannie has also co-chaired the MSRA Junior Committee, stepping in at a critical time to bring cohesiveness to junior squash programs in Massachusetts. Specifically she:
  - o Developed and coordinated the junior tournaments, ensuring all events in New England were MSRA sanctioned
  - o Chaired the Mass Junior Open, which included 150 players from all over the country as well as abroad
  - o Consistently provided a strong voice in all committee meetings
  - o Jeannie is also active at the national level, currently serving as Treasurer on the USSRA Executive Committee
- o On top of being active in the organization of squash, Jeannie exemplifies spirit in her play:
  - o She is an active women's A league member and participates in almost every area tournament (even when it means some heavy juggling with three kids)
  - o She has been a member of the Boston Howe Cup A team for the past 3+ years
  - o Last year she was ranked #1 nationally in the 4.5 skill level and #4 in the 35+ age group; she was also ranked #5 in the MA women's A skill level
  - o She has won the Harvard Club women's A championship the past 2 years (including a 5 game win over Lilian Rosenthal this past Saturday)
- o On top of all that she is a:
  - o Level 1 certified coach
  - o Member of the Harvard Club athletic committee for past ~5 years
  - o Member of the (pro) U.S. Open committee and this year coordinated housing for the players
  - o Currently actively working to bring a women's pro event to Boston
  - o And most important of all, Jeannie is a positive, upbeat person who exudes a love for the game that is felt by players of all abilities

Please join me in thanking Jeannie for all of her contributions to Massachusetts squash and congratulating her as the winner of the 2004 Ellen Borie Trophy.



Doubles A Final: Sandy Tierney, Patrick Malloy, Ross Revenaugh, Jack Wyant



Doubles Women's Final: Hope Crosier, Dianne Smith, Berkeley Revenaugh, Mary McKee

# Symphony Hall Set to Serve Up a Heaping Helping of Squash

U.S. Open Squash Championships set for September 18-21, 2004



**WHAT:** By far Boston's most unique sporting event, the 2004 U.S. Open Championships will return to the city's venerable Symphony Hall this September 18–21, 2004. The top 28 squash players from around the globe will compete for the 2004 U.S. Open Championship title. This is Symphony Hall's only sporting event and is a high caliber complement to the institution's world-famous Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops.

2003's defending U.S. Open Champion and previous two-time winner, Peter Nicol of England (currently ranked number 1 in the world), and John White of Scotland (ranked 2nd) will return, as will 2002 U.S. Open Champ David Palmer (ranked 5th, but closing back in on the top 3 slot) of Australia. Jonathon Power (8th, Canada) and Thierry Lincou (3rd, France) will offer aggressive bids for the title as well. Four matches per session will be played, and spectators can enjoy all the action from custom-built arena seating surrounding the court, as well as access to additional seats available in the first and second balcony of Symphony Hall. Tickets start at just \$25 each and are available by calling 877.524.5685 or visiting [www.ussquashopen.com](http://www.ussquashopen.com).

This "top 10" Professional Squash Association-sanctioned event is the national championship for world-ranking men's competition in the U.S.

Tournament sponsors for the 2004 U.S. Open Squash Championships include Fleet Bank/Bank of America; MARSH; Boston Racquet Club; WBUR 90.9 FM; and Dover Rug Company.

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 18 from 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m., First Round Sunday, September 19 from 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Quarterfinals Monday, September 20 from 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Semifinals Tuesday, September 21 from 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Exhibition & Finals

**WHERE:** Symphony Hall, Boston, Massachusetts

**BENEFITING CHARITY:** SquashBusters, an urban youth enrichment program benefiting less advantaged middle school children from the greater Boston area.

**TICKET INFORMATION:** For ticket and patron packages, please call toll free 877.524.5685.