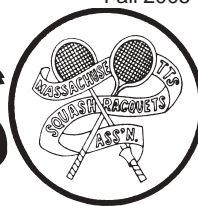


MSRA News



Massachusetts Squash Racquets Association Newsletter

President's Letter

It is with great pleasure that I write this, my first letter to the general membership, as MSRA President. I take over the reins of a thriving association, one that has been nurtured and grown by a steady stream of volunteers for too many years to count. In talking with various other squash associations around the country, I consider myself lucky to play in Massachusetts. We have a plethora of quality squash facilities, very organized year-round league play, a multitude of local tournaments, a great crop of resident pros and we frequently host national events. On top of that, we can boast one of the top junior programs in the country.

Those who have played in other areas can attest to how advanced our squash infrastructure is. Somehow though, these factors just don't seem to be enough. In my meanderings throughout the local squash community, I'm struck by the feeling that we can do even more. I've challenged myself and the other board members to represent you and the game well. To not only continue to grow the sport, but make it more fun and meaningful with additional tangible benefits to all MSRA members. To that end, I'm pleased to announce our first two initiatives. Over the course of the season we will be offering FREE squash clinics for a variety of ability levels. When you see these clinics announced, I encourage you to take advantage of them. Also under development is a discount program on squash-related items. We hope to leverage our standing as the country's largest squash association to the benefit of all our members.

I'm also very excited about the new leadership of the USSRA and their willing-

(Continued on page 3)

Squash in Israel: The Maccabiah Games

The 17th Maccabiah Games were held over the course of two weeks this past July in Israel. Sometimes referred to as "The Jewish Olympics," the games bring together Jewish athletes from all over the world to compete in 30 different sports, including squash. This summer's games had the highest attendance ever, with 7,000 athletes competing from 52 countries. The United States team had almost 800 members, the largest delegation besides Israel.

Athletes in the games can compete in various divisions depending on the sport, including an open division, a junior division, a youth division, and masters divisions. The United States sent squash teams in the Men's and Women's Open, the Boys' Juniors, Men's Masters (35+, 45+, 55+), and the Women's Masters (35+). Squash players spent the first week competing in a team event and the second week competing in an individual tournament.

Lillian Rosenthal and Jeannie Blasberg, two MSRA and Harvard Club players, represented the United States this summer. Rosenthal graduated from Brown University in June, where she played in the number one position on their squash team for four years. She played on the Women's Open team in Israel. Blasberg is an active player in Boston and nationally at the 5.0 level, as well as in her age group. The 2005 games were Blasberg's first international squash experience, and getting acclimated to the heat, the courts, and the environment all proved challenging. "I have such respect for players who travel internationally regularly and how quickly they must put all external variables behind them. It was a great learning experience," said Blasberg.

Consistent with the mission of the games, athletes go to Israel for sport, but end up having a much broader experience in Israel, coming home with a greater appreciation for the country and a strengthened Jewish identity. This was the case with Rosenthal and Blasberg, who both had the opportunity to do extensive touring while in Israel. Lillian was joined by her parents, Jackie and Dan, for the second half of the games, and Jeannie's husband, John, and three children also made the trip to Israel. In addition, there was no shortage of socializing with other US teammates and athletes from other countries.

For Rosenthal and her teammates, the games started with the disappointing news that only the US and Israel had sent teams to compete in that division. The

(Continued on page 2)



Jeannie Blasberg (l) and Lillian Rosenthal (r) take a break between matches at the 2005 Maccabiah Games.

U.S. Open in Boston: November 4–8. See pages 2–3 for details.

U.S. Open Squash Bring Women's Competition to Boston and Adds Junior Component

Grand Slam-Style Event Combines World-Class Play Under One Roof

BOSTON – September 30, 2005: The world's top male squash players are making room for both a women's and junior competition at this year's U.S. Open Squash Championships. A fast-growing sport here in the United States, squash action moves to Harvard University's Murr Center this November 4-8, 2005. Qualifying rounds on Wednesday, November 2 and Thursday, November 3 will determine the final four players for both the men's and women's divisions.



All matches, including the New England Open junior competition, will take place at the Murr Center and put to use the facility's 13 glass-back courts and one brand new, four-sided, permanent glass feature court with its own temporary 700-seat squash stadium added on the indoor tennis courts within the building. With a men's and women's purse totaling over \$74,000, the U.S. Open now ranks as the sixth largest combined event in the world behind the World Open, Qatar International, Tournament of Champions, Kuwait Open and the British Open.

John Nimick, tournament director and chairman, explains, "This year's U.S. Open combines all the best elements of the game by offering inspiration for young players and a chance to give back by the pros. Junior Open competitors will be able to watch the best in the world and then carry that excitement onto the court for their own matches. In turn, pros will participate in a Junior Jam; watch and sometimes coach kids they know during the tournament; and spend personal time with spectators and families. What a winning combination for all!"

Natalie Grainger, world ranked number 5 and the top U.S. ranked player, is looking forward to defending her title in Boston and shares, "By adding a women's component to the highly respected U.S. Open men's event, as well as increasing the purse, squash is now poised to grow and expand here in the United States. It's a terrific sport and deserves this added support."

CHAMPIONSHIP COURT SCHEDULE:

Friday, November 4 from 6:00 pm – 10:30 pm, Men's First Round

Saturday, November 5 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., Men's First Round

Sunday, November 6 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Men's Quarterfinals

Monday, November 7 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Men's & Women's Semifinals

Tuesday, November 8 from 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Men's & Women's Finals

New England Junior Open

The inaugural New England Junior Open will feature eight draws, beginning with boys and girls 19 and younger down to under 13, broken into two-year increments. Each player is guaranteed three matches with a consolation and consolation plate draw providing this possibility.

The MSRA Junior Committee expects more than 200 players from around the country to participate. New England, of course, will be well represented, as many of the secondary schools will be able to send team players. Play begins Friday afternoon, November 4 and on Saturday, November 5, a lunch will be provided at the courts as the competition advances. Finals in all the draws will be played Sunday, November 6, with matches scheduled to end in the early afternoon.

Entry forms are available on the MSRA (www.ma-squash.org) or U.S. Open web site (www.usopensquash.com) and must be received by October 25, 2005. Start times will be available on Wednesday, November 2. Tickets are available by calling 877.524.5685 or visiting www.usopensquash.com.

Maccabiah Games (*continued from page 1*)

women had come prepared to play many more matches than they did, and were downcast by the limited schedule. Israel proved to be a worthy opponent, however, winning the gold medal. Doubly frustrating, Lillian suffered a severe hamstring tear during her match and had to default. Her teammates were Amy Gross and Sarah Roberts from Philadelphia and Jamie Singer from Brooklyn. Lillian plans to live and work in the Boston area, which is great news for the women's squash community here.

Blasberg's 35+ team had more competition and won the bronze medal, narrowly losing the silver to Great Britain, as the gold went to Israel. During the second week, in her individual competition, Blasberg beat her nemesis from Great Britain to win the individual bronze medal, with the gold and silver medals going to the numbers one and two from Israel. Blasberg's teammates were Julie Kessler and Tracy Specter of Philadelphia and Ricky Silbersher of Norwich, VT.

As mentioned, the games are played every four years in Israel, but in interim years, there are Pan Am Maccabiah games and other competitions. Next summer, the United States will be sending teams, including squash teams, to Sydney to compete in a United States versus Australia games. Jewish squash players who are interested or just want to learn more can visit www.MaccabiUSA.com.

World Squash Stars Confirmed for U.S. Open

Dunlop Announces Major Sponsorship Role

Keep up with all the action at the hip, new web site, www.usopensquash.com

BOSTON - October 10, 2005: It will be a true festival of squash at the 2005 U.S. Open as top stars of the men's and women's pro tours clash and many of the USA's best juniors compete on the same stage. Canada's world #2 **Jonathon Power**, up two spots from September's rankings, is the top seed in the men's division, while #3 **David Palmer** of Australia and defending champion #4 **Lee Beachill** of England join him to lead the \$50,000 5-Star PSA men's division at this year's U.S. Open Squash Championships.



Four top-10 women, including world #4 and USA-based **Natalie Grainger**; #5 **Natalie Grinham** of Australia; #7 **Vicky Botwright** of England; and #9 **Omneya Abdel Kawy** of Egypt are the top seeds in the \$24,000 Silver 15 WISPA division. This is the first time the U.S. Open has combined both men's and women's divisions since 1997.

Further bolstering the excitement on the men's side will be the participation of 2005 Tournament of Champions winner **Anthony Ricketts** (#7, Australia) and Boston favorites **John White** (#11, Scotland), **Nick Matthew** (#12, England), **Joe Kneipp** (#18, Australia), **Dan Jenson** (#24, Australia) and former U.S. Open champ and veteran competitor, **Simon Parke** (#32, England). American star **Latasha Khan** (WISPA #23) has made the WISPA main draw and hopes to be joined by up-and-coming compatriots **Lily Lorentzen**, **Carlin Wing** and **Hope Prockop**, pending their success in the qualifying rounds.

In its first year as Official Racquet and Ball of the U.S. Open, Dunlop unveiled today a multifaceted sponsorship program for the world-class event held in Boston. Dunlop's overall involvement in the U.S. Open includes Associate Sponsorship of the men's and women's professional divisions; Official Ball and Racquet status; as well as lead sponsorship of the New England Junior Open, the event's USSRA-ranking Junior Tournament, and the three-year-old Corporate Challenge League.

The New England Junior Open, organized under the auspices of the MSRA, will attract up to 200 players from New England and the Mid Atlantic regions. The Corporate Challenge features competition between three-person teams from companies such as Fidelity Investments; Janney Montgomery; Brown Brothers Harriman; Columbia Asset Management; Putnam Investments; Softricity; and Fitcorp, owners of the Boston Racquet Club, where the Challenge League will be played.

Dunlop's Director of Racquet Sports, Steve Hall, comments, "This amazing week encompasses all that Dunlop believes in: our commitment to the glorious game of squash with the spirit of competition at its highest level; corporate America; and future junior stars. Dunlop is dedicated to the continued growth of squash in the U.S. and is very excited about our partnership with the U.S. Open."

Catch all the action at the all-new site, www.usopensquash.com, designed by Horizon Software Systems Limited in the UK. The site is packed with user-friendly features that provide visitors with current news and player information, as well as the latest results and draws during the tournament itself. The eye-catching design and comprehensiveness is a breeze to navigate and features Horizon's easy-to-use Web Builder to allow for up-to-the-minute news, photos and results to be posted quickly and easily by event organizers.

After three years of performances at Symphony Hall, the U.S. Open Squash Championships have moved to Harvard's Murr Center. The prestigious tournament will take advantage of the facility's 13 glass-back courts and one brand new, four-sided glass feature court, while establishing a 700-seat temporary squash arena on the indoor tennis courts within the same building.

SquashBusters, the urban youth enrichment program benefiting less advantaged middle and high school children from the greater Boston area, is the tournament's official charity. Tournament sponsors for the 2005 U.S. Open Squash Championships include Dunlop; MARSH; Boston Racquet Club; WBUR 90.9 FM; and Dover Rug Company. The tournament is owned by the United States Squash Racquets Association and is operated by Boston-based Event Engine, Inc.

President's Letter (continued from page 1)

ness to work with local associations. As you may be aware, the majority of our annual dues goes to support the national organization. While they've always pushed the national squash agenda (and supplied Squash News!), it was sometimes difficult to understand exactly what they were doing for us "regular" players. Well, we should be seeing the fruits of their labor soon. Already, all tournaments will be hosted on their web site (Rail Station) and this season they'll be displaying all adult ratings and rankings too. While the MSRA has decided to hold off on adopting Rail Station for league play this year, we fully expect to migrate to it once our requested list of enhancements has been completed. Adopting Rail Station will take a major burden off the MSRA volunteers, which will allow us to do even more for our local players. To that end, I encourage you to let me or any other board members listed on our web site know what's on your squash "wish list". We're committed to enhancing your squash playing experience and wish you a great season on the courts.

—Eric Godes
MSRA President
egodes@comcast.net
Spring 2005 MSRANews 3

Beyond Backhands and Boasts at SquashBusters

by Andrew Victor, SquashBusters Grant Writer and Communications Coordinator



One of the sweetest wins in squash can be “the bagel,” a game scored 9-0, with the zero representing a certain boiled and baked ring of dough. At SquashBusters we certainly teach our

kids to play squash, but most people assume that our kids singularly dream of bagels like other squashers. Yet, SquashBusters is not a squash boot camp; it is a youth development program for 91 Boston kids in 6th–12th grade, giving them seven years to grow and change through the tumultuous years of adolescence. We want our kids to be good squash players, but our guiding principle is to enable kids to develop character and grow into principled, happy, and loving adults. Thus, it should not be surprising that our kids actually spend most of their time at SquashBusters *off the court*.

7 Program Components: To be specific, SquashBusters has seven program components which develop our students holistically:

1. Squash and Fitness
2. Academics
3. Community Service
4. Mentoring
5. School Placement & Counseling
6. Cultural Discovery & Adventure Activities
7. Summer Outreach

Of course, students play squash, become part of a team, and improve their fitness, but they also get support through academic tutoring with MCAS prep and homework. Through community service projects, each student accomplishes 30 hours of service a year, giving back to their community. Regular service partners include Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly, Great Boston Food Bank, and Rebuilding Boston Together.

Eighth graders and high school seniors can also take advantage of our School Placement and Counseling where they research and apply to high schools and universities best suited to their abilities and interests. One-third of our students have adult mentors with whom they meet for a minimum of one-year.

Cultural Discovery & Adventure Activities expose our students to new, enriching environments. Last season our kids hiked Mt. Monadnock and explored Georges Island.

And when the last bell rings to end the school year, SquashBusters connects kids with great experiences like summer camps and squash clinics. For example, our kids attended Holleran Camp for Girls and Talbott Squash Academy. Non-squash destinations included Alvin Ailey Dance Camp, Camp Dudley, and Summer Search.

Measurements and Results: As a program that constantly offers kids new ways to grow, paths to explore, and experiences to savor, an important question remains: Does our formula of activities work? To answer this question for us, we track several key indicators that inform us of each of our 91 students’ progress. Our results show that our students have done well. Very well. Every year, however, brings new challenges, and we do not let our kids rest on their laurels, even if they did bagel an opponent. Below are our major results for the 2004–2005 season:

Program Participation & School Attendance

- Program Attendance Rate: 91% for 6th–12th grade.
- School Attendance Rate: All 91 students’ school attendance was better than 90%.

Squash & Fitness

- 90% improved fitness for all participants as measured by a timed mile run.
- National Squash Rankings: 19% of our students achieved a national ranking and three of our seventh grade girls qualified for the 2005 US Junior Closed in Washington D.C.

Academics

- Grade-to-Grade Matriculation: 100% of SquashBuster kids are matriculating to the next level of their middle or high school education.
- MCAS Scores: As measured by our internal testing, scores have risen 12%.
- H.S. Graduation Rate: 100% (3/3) high school seniors graduated and went to college.
- Private School Scholarships: 16 students have earned full scholarships to private schools, including Governor Dummer, Beaver Country Day, and Tabor Academy.
- Overall H.S. Graduation Rate: 96% since 1996.
- College Enrollment: 80% of our high school graduates have gone to college. Our alumni attend a broad range of schools including Bates, Northeastern, UMass, and Penn.

Community Service

- Community Service Hours: Each student does 30 hours of community service. That’s 2,730 hours of community service performed per year.
- Each student works at 7 different locations.

The Final Score: SquashBusters has begun its 10th season. Through hard work, love, and daily dedication, we know we’ll succeed, measuring our progress by academic performance, community involvement, new experiences, squash skills...and the occasional bagel.

From the USSRA

by Kevin Klipstein, USSRA CEO

In my three-part series of articles in *Squash Magazine*, I outlined the squash community's concerns about the association, our plans on how we will address these concerns moving forward and where you, the squash enthusiast, fit into the game plan.

In the end, much of our success and the future growth of squash depend on the work of the local associations. And their success relies on your support. The MSRA is our largest local association and clearly one of the best managed. I encourage all of you to pause to consider how fortunate you are to have such dedicated leaders locally. Having been a SRA board member in the past, I know first-hand how much time and effort this often-thankless work entails.

A tremendous amount happens at the local SRA level to drive the sport's growth. The volunteer board members and committees create the local tournament schedule, run the leagues, manage the tournaments and maintain the local website as well as coordinate clinics, junior elite squads and pro exhibitions. We at the USSRA are committed to working closely with the MSRA to deliver programs professionally.

We will continue to focus resources on improving the tools local associations need to run tournaments and leagues. We are also dedicated to improving our communications by enhancing our website, increasing the use of email to keep people updated and informed and connecting with members through the SRAs. And finally, our organized play structures will begin to take new shape as we invest in running premier National Championships and create competitions which integrate local, regional and national play through the ratings and rankings system.

As the season officially begins, I look forward supporting the MSRA's initiatives and collaborating with many of you. Working together we will certainly take the sport to extraordinary new heights.



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Boston's
Howe Cup teams
in Philadelphia!**

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MSRA Adult Rankings 2004–2005

50+ League:

1. Malcolm Davidson
2. Jon Ross
3. Dan Reagan
4. Tom Quinn
5. Digger Donahue

Open 5.5:

1. Daniel Sharplin
2. Pat Malloy
3. Parth Doshi
4. Mike Semprucci
5. Jason Hicks
6. Irfan Choudhary
7. Dave Adams
8. Scott Poirier
9. Tyler Hindermann
10. Mark Froot
11. Ali Merchant

Open 4.5:

1. Kumudu Gunasekera
2. Ethan Hugo
3. Firas Khatib
4. Ken Leng
5. Richard Schafer
6. Reese Genser
7. Eric Godes
8. Bill Boardman
9. Showbik Kalra
10. Robert Frazier

Open 4.0:

1. David McGuire
2. John Sequeira
3. Scudder Sinclair
4. Jerry O'Sullivan
5. Susan Rafuse
6. Melvyn Wing
7. Forgan McIntosh
8. Frans Kaashoek
9. Jason Murphy
10. Brian Hicks

Open 3.5:

1. Christophe Dupupet
2. Justin Bond
3. Jim Lillie
4. Myke Farricker
5. Jon Hickok
6. Brooks Gray
7. Francesco Melandri
8. Peter Buchanan

Open 2.5:

1. Philip D. Murphy
2. Jeffrey Wade Brown
3. Jonas D.L. McCray
4. Bernhard Suhm
5. Blake Godbout
6. Tim Driver
7. Frederic Eustis
8. Matthew Dayton Sturgis
9. David A. Buckle
10. Christopher deRham
11. Timothy R. O'Brien

Women's 4.5:

1. Sharon Bradey
2. Margaret Elias
3. Hope Prockop
4. Carlin Wing
5. Wendy Ansdell
6. Shona Kerr
7. Jeannie Blasberg
8. Orla O'Doherty
9. Hope Crosier
10. Susan Rafuse
11. Julia Moore

Women's 3.5:

1. Merrill Muckerman
2. Kate Lytle
3. Leslie Mann
4. Neely Steinberg
5. Pam Larson
6. Liz Steffey
7. Meredith Johnson
8. Wendy Irwin
9. Tina Wu
10. Kara Kardon
11. Kate Irving
12. Naomi Bradshaw

Women's 2.5:

1. Szilvie Szombati
2. Liz Lambert
3. Bernadette Dixon
4. Kerry Wellington
5. Bev Pankrat
6. Lucy Bradley
7. Dominique Farinaux-Dumas
8. Deborah Carr
9. Peg Sestrich
10. Becky Lingard
11. Corey Schafer
12. Maria Mayorga
13. Kami Guerrier
14. Liz Hurley
15. Phoebe Slanetz

MSRA Junior Rankings 2004–2005

Boys Under 13:

1. Julian Kirby
2. Liam McClintock
3. Samuel Sokolsky-Tift
4. Michael Lillie
5. Conor McClintock
6. Peter Chase
7. Cameron Rahbar
8. Jhonathan Guerra

Boys Under 15:

1. Will Sullivan
2. Charles Gertler
3. Jeremy Wong
4. Eddie Gentle
5. Anyeifry Sanchez
6. Tod Holberton
7. Mahmud Jalloh
8. Rodney Galvao

Boys Under 17:

1. Ryan Dowd
2. Christopher Vernick
3. Adam Vartikar
4. Livingston Jones
5. Daniel Lesser
6. Pedro Souza
7. Ben DiCamillo
8. Mikheil Darlington
9. Steven Cotter

Boys Under 19:

1. Mark Froot
2. Nicholas Hrdy
3. John Fulham
4. John Lingos-Webb
5. Elliot Beck
6. Alex Heitzmann

Girls Under 13:

1. Ashley Brooks
2. Bianca Vega
3. Jaleesa Walker

Girls Under 15:

1. Dori Rahbar
2. Alli Rubin
3. Sarah Loucks
4. Corey Schafer
5. Courtney Jones
6. Hannah Coffin
7. Sarah Crosky
8. Ken Maxia Joseph

Girls Under 17:

1. Cece Cortes
2. Maura Neal
3. Shanita Williams
4. Eliana Saltzman

Girls Under 19:

1. Krissy Rubin
2. Elisa Melendez
3. Vicky Flamenco

For adult MSRA rankings for last season, point your browser to http://www.ma-squash.org/state_rankings.asp.

**Renew Your MSRA
Membership Today!**
See page 15
for details.

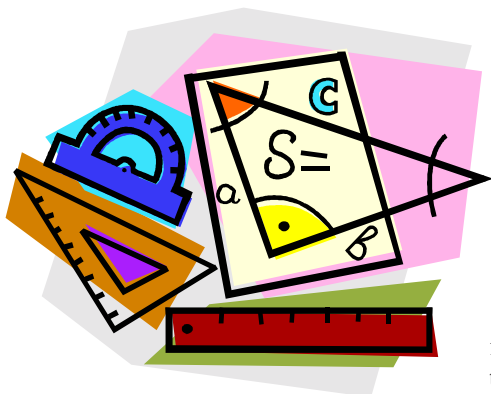
Playing the Angles

by Barbara Beckwith, freelance writer and women's 2.5 squash player

"Squash is a game of angles," says Tennis and Racquet Club coach Daniel Sharplin. "A lot of players don't think about this. They think of squash as a power game and just try to hit hard."

Yet angles matter: for your grip (hand on racket at the angle of a handshake), your wrist (cocked 45 degrees to the forearm), and your body as it moves around the court (diagonal forward for a crosscourt, diagonal back for a boast).

If you fail to keep your racquet face open, squash coaches warn, you'll find your drives slamming into the tin. During your preswing, according to Ian McKenzie's *The Squash Workshop*, your wrist should be cocked at a 45 degree angle to the forearm, as your upper arm extends back and around until it feels restricted—up to 45 degrees.



If you prepare for a shot in with tennis player's straight arm, you'll be stymied by calls of "Let!" and "Stroke" rulings by refs. The correct squash preparation, to continue the math metaphor, resembles a protractor drawing a circle: your body and your racket head pivot tightly, allowing your partner to move around you.

As for a crosscourt, Crawford W. Lindsey, Jr. in *The Book of Squash* says to remember "the angle of incidence equals the angle of reflection." Or, as Sharplin puts it in more down-to-earth terms: "If you hit a V shape toward the front wall, the ball will come off at the same angle. So you have to quickly assess where the apex of that angle should be." Once you understand where your ball needs to land on the front in order to rebound low and tight and far back, says Sharplin, the rest is practice: "When you've hit 500,000 balls, you pretty much know where to hit on the front wall."

Concord-Acton coach Paul Ansdell places a cone upside-down along the side wall as a target during crosscourt practice. "You're not leaving here," Ansdell tells the players, "until one of you gets the ball in the cone." His challenge forces players to calculate the correct V trajectory to send the ball in the cone with a resounding "thwomp."

The classic angle shot is, of course, the boast. University Club of Boston coach Chris Spahr tells players that a 2-wall "working boast" should be hit 45 degrees in front of you, and a 3-wall boast should be hit 90 degrees in front of you. Ansdell encourages players to aim for the right front or left front corner of the court next door: "This gets the ball to rebound at the correct angle to reach the opposite front corner," he says. Beware: if your angle's too sharp, the ball won't reach the front; if it's too wide, it will bring the shot out into the middle where it can easily be "put away."

Then there are the tricky angle shots. The reverse angle is hit sharply into the side wall from up front so that it angles widely across the front of the court. The skid boast, a defensive shot from the back court, skims high off the side and then front wall and floats across to the back where, if successfully executed, it drops and dies. The corkscrew is a surprise serve or volley high into the corner, one that hits the server's sidewall first and immediately after, the front wall, from which it "screws outward" as a crosscourt lob. Well-executed, it lands far back on the side wall almost parallel to the backwall, a tough shot to return. "It's a 'hot dog' shot for messing around," says University Club of Boston coach Chris Spahr. "It's a legit shot, part of the variety and fun of the game, but don't "spend" it often or your opponent will get to be aware of it."

"Playing the angles" can spice up your game. And you thought that 9th grade geometry would never come in handy!

MSRA League Play Begins October 17

The MSRA adult leagues begin the week of October 17, 2005. All participants in these leagues must be members of the MSRA. We encourage all interested squash players in the Boston area to contact their local pro for a slot on the appropriate skill level team. (If you don't know what your level is, ask your pro for an evaluation.) If you don't have a club pro, contact the respective league coordinator, listed at www.ma-squash.org, who will place you on an appropriate team.

League play will take place on the following nights of the week:

Mondays: Open 2.5, 50+

Tuesdays: Open 5.5, Women's 2.5 A&B

Wednesdays: Open 4.5, Women's 3.5

Thursdays: Open 3.5, Open 4.0, Women's 4.5

There will be up to 16 regular season matches commencing the week of 10/17/05 and ending the week of 2/27/2006. Playoffs will commence the week of 3/6/2006 and be completed no later than the week of 3/20/2006.

League Rules Updates

Simon Graham (simgr@comcast.net)

As the league season approaches, the board has, as it does every year, reviewed the league rules and made changes to clarify their intent. This may seem a boring even prosaic activity, but every year players find new and interesting way to interpret the rules! This year we've made quite a few changes to clarify existing rules that can be summarized as follows:



- First, we have merged the rules for all of the leagues into a single set that covers Open, Women's and the handi-capped 50+ and summer leagues.
- Second, we've added further clarification to the eyewear rule to make it clear that **regular eyeglasses may NOT be worn even if they have plastic lenses**. This was always the case since such glasses do not conform to the required standard, but we want to make it clear. Individual players and captains are responsible for applying this rule; you should not play a match if either player does not have the appropriate eyewear. For those who have to wear glasses (which includes myself), there are two alternatives:
 - Prescription safety glasses such as Rec-Specs by Liberty Optical (<http://www.libertyoptical.net/>)
 - A full face mask like the i-Mask eyeguard (<http://imask.com.au/>) to be worn over regular glasses.
- Clarification on defaults: If a player wins by default, the match counts for the purposes of playoff and league ranking eligibility but is NOT included in the players individual league ranking calculations.
- It seems every year we have at least one complete tie or a completely defaulted match, so we've added clarification of how the extra point is determined in these cases (1/2 point for a tie and no extra point for a double default).

In addition, we've changed one area: The leagues are a team event and the intent is that all four matches be played at the scheduled time and place. This year we expanded the rules on rescheduling; any rescheduled match must be played in advance of the scheduled time and captains are not required to accommodate such requests. We are, however, leaving the handling of weather-related delays up to the league coordinators, as this depends on the individual league scheduling.

The new rules are posted at the MSRA web site (follow the links to the Leagues page and click on 'League Rules' or download a PDF file at <http://www.ma-squash.org/MSRALeagueRules.pdf>). In addition, you should see a poster containing the rules displayed at all of the clubs shortly.

Let your voice be heard if you have opinions on the rules or if there are changes you want to see; remember that if you express an opinion, you might get to edit the changes next year!

Simon Graham is an MSRA board member responsible for publishing the Year-book and is chairperson of the Open 3.5 league. He plays at Concord-Acton, where he grills a mean steak during the Summer Team Tournament.



The Visionaries

By Will Carlin

Every once in awhile, an organization takes a stand. This squash season, the MSRA would like to remind people of their long-standing rule to protect Massachusetts players from eye injuries: It is mandatory for tournament and league players to not only to wear eyewear, but also to wear glasses that meet the minimum safety standards.

When people think about the types of accident goggles protect against, most think first of being hit by a ball, but interestingly, the far more frequent injuries happen from racquets in or near the eye. An opponent's large backswing or follow-through can do as much or more damage than a ball. And this is where the risk of regular eyewear looms large.

A squash racquet hitting regular plastic (let's not even think about glass) can shatter it or break it into large fragments. Even if you are able to close your eyes in time, the plastic shards can rip through your eyelid and rupture the eyeball. Sorry to be so graphic, but a ruptured eye is beyond the repair even of today's advanced surgical procedures. Your sight in that eye is gone.

But the story doesn't end there. Your eyes are connected to one another via an intricate circuit of canals, ducts and nerves. If you get an infection in one eye, it can spread, and you can find yourself blind in both eyes.

Goggles are a pain. They fog up, they get sweat on them, and they aren't always comfortable. But if you wear them consistently, you adapt. But who wants to do that? And if you already wear glasses, who wants to shell out the bucks to get prescription protective goggles?

Well, the MSRA has made those decisions for its players. Now, there is no more internal debate, no more need to think about whether it is fair or not. You either wear protective eyewear that meets the standard or you forfeit your match.

Most of the reactions that the MSRA will hear will be criticisms of the new enforcement of the eye-protection rule. That is partly because people generally are more eager to report angst than pleasure, but it also is because the players whose sight the MSRA saves won't necessarily know how bad it might have been.

So, let me say it in print: thank you for saving the sight of many players who will never know it. Thank you for taking the choice out of players' hands. Thank you for taking a stand.

Will Carlin is the back-page columnist for Squash Magazine. Though he would prefer to be remembered for his play (twice the number one player in the US), he knows his legacy is likely to be as the best US player to have been seriously injured by a ball to the eye. A torn-and-detached retina kept him off the court for two years and brought his pro career to a premature end.



Concord-Acton Repeats as Summer Champs

by Sam Magruder, Summer League Coordinator

The MSRA Summer League completed its fourth season with twelve teams playing a full round-robin schedule from the middle of June until the end of August. Once-defeated Concord-Acton took the championship convincingly by sweeping their last three matches. The next five teams changed places almost weekly. Maugus and the Comebacks both went 9-1 over the last two weeks to edge the Harvard Club for 2nd place. SquashBusters and Milton rounded out the top half of the standings as they both played some of the top teams at the end of the season, preventing them from challenging for the top.

The teams used a total of 128 players during the season, while only one player, **Ben Mathes** of Wellesley, played more than 8 matches. Only the two Cambridge Racquet teams used as few as eight players during the season with most teams needing 10-12 players to field teams throughout the summer.

Thanks to the evening effect of the handicap system, there were only a few undefeated players with at least three wins in the league, but they disproportionately played for Concord-Acton. The best record was posted by **Sadiz Reza** of the CRFC-Comebacks at 7-0. Concord-Acton fielded four repeat winners, **Wendy Ansdell**, **Margo Grossberg**, **Steve Steinberg** and **Ed Slidell**, with 4, 3, 5 and 6 wins respectively. **Dick Drury** of Maugus posted a 4-0 record, and **Paul Stakutis** of Milton went 3-0. SquashBusters showcased the only other undefeated player, **Mike Lapham** at 4-0.

Many thanks to the captains for helping to orchestrate the ever-changing lineups and reporting the results. We did have some problems getting complete results for some matches, which accounts for some of the incomplete totals in the final standings. Despite the occasional sweltering match without air conditioning, the matches were fun, competitive, and frequently followed by a party with adult beverages. A great summer tradition continues! Congratulations to captain **Simon Graham** and Concord-Acton for their well-deserved championship.

Here are the final standings:

Team	Points	% of Points Won
Concord-Acton	44	80.0%
Cambridge Racquet-Comebacks	39	70.9%
Maugus Club	39	70.9%
Harvard Club	38	69.1%
SquashBusters	36	65.5%
Milton	34	61.8%
Tennis & Racquet Club	28	50.9%
Cambridge Racquet-Relentless	20	36.4%
University Club	17	30.9%
Sports Club/LA	12	24.0%
Union Boat Club	10	20.0%
Wellesley Blue	7	12.7%

Summer Squash Camp for Juniors



Local juniors keep their skills in shape over the summer at Concord-Acton's summer squash camp. From L-R: Nate Beck (coach), Peter Jang, Danny Silk, Jennifer Fox, Schuyler Livingston, Kyla Sherwood, Maura Neal, Jeremy Wong, Carolyn Kaemmer, Jeremy Bader

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SquashBusters is a non-profit after-school program for 6th-12th graders in Boston public schools.

MSRA Junior Committee

A Preview of the 2005–2006 Season

It doesn't seem like we had much of a summer at all, but school waits for no signal from the weather and likewise the squash season. Clinics at various locales have begun, and the junior tournament season swings into full action in October. This beginning will be followed by the many activities that have helped to build the MSRA Junior Program to its current prominent standing in the USSRA junior ranks. Some of the details are below, but be sure to check the Juniors link on the MSRA web site (www.ma-squash.org) for activities, entry forms, updates and results.

U.S. Open and the New England Junior Open

The world's top professional men and women are coming to Boston the first weekend in November. An important part of the U.S. Open festivities is the inaugural of a junior tournament to be held at Harvard's Murr Center, where most of the professional matches will be played. The junior participants will have the chance to watch Women's and Men's matches on adjacent courts at the Murr, while competing in their own age division events. In addition, MSRA juniors will be treated to a Junior Jam, an 80-person clinic on Thursday with the pros, a smaller clinic on Saturday, and 25 minutes of junior matches between the Monday semifinal matches of the Open.

Tournaments

This year's schedule is posted on the web site. MSRA-sanctioned and other national or regional tournaments are scheduled on virtually every weekend from late September to early April. Included are three Grand Prix events from which players will be chosen for Improvement and Sportsmanship awards from Black Knight. The sanctioned events count towards national rankings, where MSRA juniors have been well represented. In addition to the New England Open, the MSRA Junior Committee runs two major tournaments: the Junior Open in January and the Massachusetts State Championships in late February.

Rankings

MSRA rankings for the past four seasons are posted on the web site. The 2004–2005 rankings are derived from the national rankings, where four sanctioned events plus passage of the referees test are required. More information on rankings is available on the USSRA web site (www.us-squash.org). Virtually everyone who meets the requirements has a chance to be ranked, hence a national/MSRA ranking is always within reach. All tournament players are reminded that they must have passed the USSRA's Level D Club Referee examination to be eligible.

Junior Leagues

The MSRA Junior Leagues will be held at the Murr Center again this year on four Sundays from 2 to 5 PM. Scheduled dates are 12/11, 1/15, 1/29, and 2/19. The leagues are made up of teams from area clubs and SquashBusters and are intended to provide competition for players who aren't necessarily tournament-oriented, along with some instruction and commentary. Juniors who do not belong to a club are welcome and will be placed on teams by Azi Djazani, the League Coordinator.

Exhibitions and Clinics

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

Web Site

The Juniors link on the MSRA web site will be the latest source of information on junior activities. The site will also feature pictures and results from events as well as articles. The MSRA Junior Committee can be contacted at juniors@ma-squash.org for further information.

Newsletter

The Junior Committee will publish articles, results, pictures, etc. to some extent in the MSRA newsletter but will not have a separate newsletter. The web site is a more efficient and time-saving method of communication.

We look forward to an exciting and rewarding season for junior squash this year and welcome all suggestions and comments.

—MSRA Junior Committee (Sharon Bradey, Erik Kirby, Mike Loucks,
Libby McClintock, Gary Rubin, Azi Djazani, Chris Spahr, Jim Sullivan,
Tom Poor, Chair)

Refereeing Questions & Answers

by Wendy Ansdell

QUESTION:

Last year in league play, I was ahead by two games when my opponent walked off the court without a word. I assumed he had to run to the bathroom. He came back on the court five minutes later without an explanation, and we continued to play as if nothing happened. But should he have defaulted the rest of the game/match to me for leaving like that? We had no ref for this match.

ANSWER: As stated in the league rules, all state league matches are to be refereed. It would appear that your opponent took an unfair advantage of there being no referee and, unfortunately, of you. (*Guidelines have been used and a fuller explanation of each ruling can be found at: [www. http://www.us-squash.org/rules.](http://www.us-squash.org/rules)*) If this match had been refereed, this incident could have been avoided with a few appropriate questions to the player who left the court under the following rulings:

Firstly, bare in mind that play must be continuous; therefore Rule 7 would apply to any squash match:

CONTINUITY OF PLAY (Rule 7)

Play is expected to be continuous in each game once a player has started serving. There should be no delay between the end of one rally and the start of the next one.

In between all games an interval of 90 seconds is permitted.

Players are permitted to change items of clothing or equipment if necessary.

When a player leaves the court, a referee should determine why the player has done so—is the player injured, sick, or changing equipment? In most cases a player will let the referee and opponent know why they need to leave the court, but as in this case, not always! Therefore, Rule 16 would be used:

BLEEDING, INJURY AND ILLNESS (Rule 16)

If an injury occurs which involves bleeding, the bleeding must be stopped before the player can continue. A player is allowed a reasonable time to attend to a bleeding wound.

If the bleeding was caused solely by the opponent's action, the injured player wins the match.

If the bleeding recurs no further delay is allowed, except the player can concede a game, using the 90 second period between games to attend to the wound and stop the bleeding. If unable to stop it, the player must concede the match.

For an injury not involving bleeding, it must be decided whether the injury was either caused by the opponent or self inflicted or contributed to by both players.

If caused by the opponent, the injured player wins the match if any recovery time is needed.

If self-inflicted, the injured player is allowed 3 minutes to recover and must then play on, or concede a game using the 90 second rest period between games to recover.

If contributed by both players, the injured player is allowed an hour to recover.

A player who is ill must play on or can take a rest period by conceding a game and using the 90 second interval to recover. Cramps, feeling sick and breathlessness (including asthma) are considered illnesses. If a player vomits on court, the opponent wins the match.

Refereeing Questions & Answers

(continued)

QUESTION:

What is the difference, if any, between trapping and blocking? I can't seem to find any official rule wording addressing these issues.

ANSWER:

This can be a tough one to decide on but to summarize, "blocking" by an outgoing player would be seen as purposeful—a deliberate attempt to stop an opponent from getting to the ball in hope of getting a point or at least a let. "Trapping" by the incoming player, is deemed accidental, i.e., "the incoming striker who is making a legitimate attempt to get in and play the ball, but blocks or traps the outgoing player's effort to clear."

The following guidelines would apply in a referee's line of thinking if a let is called and a decision needed to be made:

"G6. MAKING EVERY EFFORT AND MINIMAL INTERFERENCE

The opponent must make every effort to clear the ball after playing a return. The opponent's route should allow the player unobstructed direct access to the ball, provided the player has not moved in to play the ball so quickly as to block the opponent's exit. In the latter case the Referee shall allow a let, unless the player could not have made a good return, in which case the Referee shall not allow a let.

However, it is equally important for the player to make every effort to get to and play the ball. If the player does not make every effort to get to and play the ball, that is a significant factor in the Referee's assessment of whether or not that player could have reached the ball and made a good return.

The Referee shall decide the degree of effort that the player should make to demonstrate "making every effort". This does not give the player the right to abuse the opponent physically and the Referee shall penalize significant or deliberate physical contact under Rule 12 or Rule 17.

When a player appeals for a let, having encountered some interference, the Referee, when deciding that the interference had no effect on that player's sighting of the ball and freedom to get to and play the ball, shall not allow a let. This is minimal interference and includes situations in which: the opponent crossed the flight of the ball very early in its trajectory from the front wall but still allowed the player time to sight the ball; the player brushed past the opponent on the way to the ball without affecting the player's direct access; and the racquet swing brushed the opponent, the opponent's clothing or racquet without affecting the racquet's swing.

However, when interference has occurred, the Referee shall not refuse a let in situations in which the player was clearly making every effort (albeit short of physical contact with the opponent) to get to and play the ball and had demonstrated to the Referee the ability to reach the ball."

More information and viewpoints on this subject can be found in this month's edition of *Squash Magazine* and also at: <http://www.squash.ca/e/officiating/tso/april2005/blocking.htm>. Article by Barry Faguy.

Wendy Ansdell is a USSRA National Referee and vice-president of the MSRA. She coaches at the Concord-Acton Squash Club.

To submit your refereeing question for the winter issue of the MSRA News, contact Nat Lovell, the MSRA's Rules and Referees chairperson at nwlovell@yahoo.com.

Preview of the 2005–2006 Doubles Season

by Tom Poor

The North American men's rankings for the past season have been published and include 18 members of the MSRA. Furthermore, we had Canadian and United States national champions last year as well as champions of some regional tournaments. But that was last year, and, as the saying goes, "What've you done for me lately?" Lately in this case is the upcoming 2005–2006 doubles season.

Doubles players at the University and Harvard Clubs typically begin their season in late September, early October although there are many who intersperse their summer golf games with doubles sessions. Golf disappears with the onset of cool weather and the doubles season.

The first event used to be the Fall Foliage in Boston in late October. That tournament has been supplanted by the inaugural MacKay Memorial in Burlington, Ontario. It's a little early for some, but **Lee Spelke & Hank Shaw**, ranked #6 and 7 in the 70s will probably go. **Tom Poor**, ranked #1 in the 60s with **Lenny Bernheimer**, will go but without Lenny. The latter is recovering from shoulder surgery in July to repair his rotator cuff and will hopefully return by the Canadians in March. Filling in for Lenny will be **Ralph Howe**, a former national champion.

Montreal's Smith Chapman is next in early November. **Jamie Fagan**, #61 in the 40s, is a regular, sometimes with **Scott Hartz** who missed last year completely with a new work schedule. **Joel Kozol**, #3 in the 70s, usually plays with a Canadian partner. The USSRA's Doubles Committee is anxious to encourage more players to enter events such as this with reduced entry fees and accommodations. **Jon Hyett**, **David Adams** and **Tyler Hill** are all emerging players who fit this description. Other tournaments later in the year will do the same.

The first weekend in January, 2006 is the setting for the McRory Doubles in Philadelphia. **Mac Davidson**, ranked #5 in the 50s, and his Baltimore partner, Stan Dorney, are the defending champions in the 50s. Mac also has a new partner, **Jon Ross**, who together won the States' 50s last spring and may also appear in a national event. **John Nimick**, ranked #13 in the 45s, may return to his hometown and **Greg Zaff**, #61 in the 40s, may also appear with fellow Williams graduate **Tom Harrity**. **Nick Barquin**, Open #97, may play as he did in the Nationals last year in the "A" division.

The Canadians are scheduled for early March in Toronto, Ontario. **Derrick Niederman & Sandy Tierney** are the defending champions in the 50s, as are Tom and Lenny in the 60s. Lenny will hopefully have recovered from his shoulder surgery by the time this tournament rolls around. **Chuck Kelly & Jim Young**, #34 in the 60s, will hopefully draw someone other than Poor & Bernheimer as they did last year in the quarters. **Mat Sibble**, #42 in the 50s, is available and spending more time in the doubles court than previous years.

The U.S. Nationals are the last weekend in March in St. Louis. Last year's event in New York was a huge success, both in participation and financially. Many young players attended. Boston teams repeated in the 50s and 60s while **Mary McKee** and twin sister **Berkeley Revenaugh** fell two points short in the fifth of the Women's final. Berkeley's now in San Francisco with **Ross**, Open #52, but we still claim her as our own. **Chipp Adams & Peter Gordon** may appear as they've played in the past as has **Ed Serues**. **Court Chilton**, **Tim's**, (#24 in the 70s), son, is another candidate.

The biennial World Championships will be held in Toronto, Ontario over the last week of April, 2006. In 2002, the MSRA sent 15 players with a great deal of success. There is a hint that the defending 2004 Mixed champion and Open finalist **Jessie Chai** may emerge from retirement for another crack at this title. We expect that another large contingent of players from Boston will travel north again.

And then there are the States. Last year, 135 players entered seven divisions in the state championships. Play begins in early March and ends on finals night, May 8, coinciding with the MSRA's annual meeting. This tournament is the biggest of them all and is a fitting conclusion to a competitive, enjoyable and hopefully a very successful season.

MSRANews

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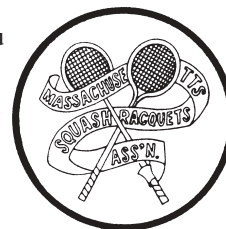
Comments or suggestions may be addressed to: Sarah Lemaire, Editor, MSRA News, slemaire@verizon.net.

MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

A new MSRA membership year began on July 1st. All annual memberships expired on June 30th. If you haven't already renewed your MSRA/USSRA membership for the 2005-2006 year, please do it now.

Renewing now will ensure your eligibility for MSRA league play and other events that require MSRA and/or USSRA membership, entitle you to benefits such as discounted tickets for MSRA Night at the U.S. Open, keep your listing in the 2005-2006 MSRA Yearbook and Directory current, and assure your USSRA membership and subscription to *Squash* magazine will not be interrupted.



It's easy to renew your membership. You can submit an application on line from the MSRA website, www.ma-squash.org, by clicking on "Application" in the left frame (which avoids the pesky bad handwriting problem). Then, just send a check for your dues (see below) payable to the MSRA, to our address at the bottom of the page. Or you can fill out the form below (in which case, please print clearly) and send it with your check.

If you prefer to pay by credit card, you can renew through the USSRA web site, www.us-squash.org. The annual dues will be the same but the USSRA charges an additional \$2.50 convenience fee for each membership. (Note: You will need your USSRA number. If you don't know your USSRA number, please first check the membership list on our website. If it's not there, write to us at the e-mail or postal address below or call our membership secretary, Janice Troy, at 781-821-5547.) **IMPORTANT: If you join through the USSRA, remember to select "Massachusetts SRA" as your local association.** If you don't, MSRA membership will not be included, the MSRA will not be notified that you have renewed, and your USSRA membership will actually cost more than it will as part of an MSRA/USSRA joint membership. (Please note that this option is not advisable for the special membership categories described below.)

Annual membership dues are \$55 for adults and \$45 for juniors, which includes both MSRA and USSRA memberships. (Special categories: If you are a life member of the MSRA or a pro at an area club or school, and your USSRA membership is not current, send just \$35 to cover the USSRA portion of your dues. If you are a life member of the USSRA, send just \$20 to cover the MSRA portion of your dues. If you are uncertain of your status or whether your USSRA membership is current, contact us.)

If you have any questions about your membership, please write to us by e-mail to membership@ma-squash.org or by postal mail to P.O. Box 51611, Boston, MA 02205-1611.

MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY: * INDICATES REQUIRED INFORMATION)

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Please indicate how you would like to receive the MSRA News (check one):

By e-mail link to on-line version ONLY : By postal mail:

Date of Birth*: _____ Male Female USSRA #: _____

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