

MSRANews



Massachusetts Squash Racquets Association Newsletter

MSRA President's Letter Spring 2006

Another winter squash season is in the books, and by all accounts it was a successful one. Two signature events marked the end of the season, both graciously hosted this year by the University Club. First was the annual singles finals night, which saw the top talent from all Massachusetts age group and skill level divisions gathered together for an impressive showing of grit, determination and sportsmanship. More recently, the MSRA hosted its Annual General Meeting to elect a new slate of officers for the coming year and recognize champions from all divisions and each of the winter league winning teams. If you didn't make it to either event this year, you missed the best of what Massachusetts squash has to offer. The food was plentiful, drinks were flowing and a number of very deserving champions were crowned.

For those who may be new to the MSRA, we welcome you and we hope you take advantage of being part of the largest Squash Racquets Association in the country. We now boast over 1,100 members, which represents a 15% increase over the past five years. Our leagues continue to thrive, with over 80 adult teams competing this past winter. An impressive 516 players accounted for over 2,500 individual matches stretching from Boston to Concord to Andover and back again. Equally impressive was our junior program. Three major tournaments were held, with over 500 juniors competing. As a recent

Boston Globe article pointed out, the sport we love is growing steadily, and the strength of our junior program is sure to keep our ranks full.

Although squash was bypassed for the Olympics once again, here in the United States we continue to move forward. I'm thrilled that our own **Jeannie Blasberg** has been named Chairperson of the USSRA starting this summer. She led Massachusetts ably during her time on the MSRA board, and there's no doubt she'll add great value to the national organization. Recently we've seen some gratifying initiatives from this national governing body. The most visible has been the development of RailStation, a web-based tool used to manage tournaments, ratings and rankings. Beginning next season, ratings and rankings will be updated in real time as all tournament and even league results will be entered. We'll all be able to see at a moment's notice how we stack up in Massachusetts, our age group and skill level. While some of us may not want to see where we stand after a rough patch on the courts, it should lead to a great deal of excitement and some good-natured needling on the courts. The USSRA now sends us regular e-newsletters and is also revamping its national tournament structure, which will be announced shortly.

Here in Massachusetts, your new board is committed to making squash a more meaningful part of your recreational life. In addition to continuing to run the aforementioned leagues, over the past year we've enhanced our major events and introduced free clinics for members. We're also working on the establishment of a local squash archive project, reintroducing rules and referee clinics and may even introduce a squash grand-prix tournament series for next year. What else can we do for you? Take a look at the board that represents you listed on page 15 and feel free

to reach out to any of us. Although we're all volunteers, we have loads of energy and are seeking additional ideas to enhance your squash experience.

If you're the type that spends the summer away from the courts, enjoy your time away and we hope you come back in the fall rested and refreshed. For those of you who like to play year-round, I hope you'll consider our summer league, which is a more relaxed environment that will keep your skills sharp and prove to be a lot of fun too. Enjoy the next few months and we look forward to seeing you again next fall as another squash season kicks off in high gear.

—Eric Godes

MSRA President

egodes@comcast.net



Jeannie Blasberg, soon-to-be-appointed Chairperson of the USSRA and former MSRA president, speaks at the MSRA Annual Meeting on May 8.



MSRA President Eric Godes speaking at the annual meeting on May 8, 2006.

2006 MSRA Doubles Championships

by Tom Poor



2006 MSRA Parent/Child Doubles:

Finalists - Dave and Bruce Shulman; Champions: Dianne & Coley Smith

The 2006 MSRA State Doubles Championships had 150 entrants, the largest number in the tournament's history dating back to 1950. A new category, the Parent/Child division, was added to the seven existing draws and included mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. In all the draws, there were teams that had won before, winning again, and of course there were unseeded teams surprising everyone. The culmination came on finals night, May 8, wrapped around the annual meeting of the MSRA.

The inaugural Parent/Child draw featured nine teams, led by the top-seeded duo of **Dianne & Coley Smith**. Coley, a student at Trinity, made several trips from Hartford to help his mother defeat **Gary & Krissy Rubin** in the first round and **Barrett & Tom Takesian** in the semis. Meanwhile, **Bruce & Dave Shulman** were wending their way through the bottom half, defeating second seeded **Matt & Joel Kozol** in the quarters, followed by a three-game victory over **Serena & Jamie Fagan**. They continued to roll in the finals, taking the first game. At that point Dianne mentioned something to Coley about his allowance, whereupon the pace of

the balls Coley hit doubled, often handcuffing Bruce on the backhand. The next three games and title went to the Smiths (and, we assume, the restoration of Coley's allowance).

Coley came to Boston for more than just the above. He stepped in as **Pat Malloy's** partner when **Sandy Tierney** had to withdraw with another leg injury suffered during a practice match. This latest mishap followed a skiing injury earlier in the season and effectively ended Sandy's national season along with partner **Derrick Niederman**.

The A draw numbered 22 teams, including top-seeded and defending champions **Chris Spahr & Will Broadbent**. They were doing fine until the day before their semi-final when Will turned his knee and had to go into surgery. That mishap moved **Greg Zaff & Derrick Niederman** into the finals, although they hardly needed any help, shutting out B champions **Rob Dewees & John Palfrey** in the first round and **John Nimick & Len Zide** in the quarters. Second-seeded **Doug Lifford & Jamie Fagan** also had little trouble reaching the finals, winning first over **Tom Poor & Preston Quick**, then Coley and Pat. The finals were dominated by Greg who reverted to years' earlier sharpshooting form and with some help from Derrick kept their opponents to less than ten points in all three games. This title was Greg & Derrick's fourth, their first coming all the way back in 1988. Can Father Time be deceived?



2006 MSRA 60+ Doubles:

Champions: John Brazilian & Lenny Bernheimer; Finalists: Fran Donlan & Ed Serues



2006 MSRA "A" Doubles:

Champions: Derrick Niederman & Greg Zaff; Finalists: Jamie Fagan & Doug Lifford

Their rude dismissal in the A draw may have been a harbinger of things to come in the B draw for **Rob Dewees & John Palfrey** although not before the finals. Seeded first from 24 teams as 2004 champions, they cruised into the semi-finals without the loss of a game. At that point, Williams College alumni **Gerry Kirschner & David Adams** put up serious opposition, leading 2-1 in games. Errors appeared more numerous in the next two games, and John's shotmaking on the right wall may also have had something to do with the winning result. **Scott Hartz & Jeff Rodman**, both former winners of the B with different partners, were seeded second and expected by many to win this year. Expectations were upheld until the semi-finals, where they were blitzed by **Jon Hyett & Tim Brennan**. The latter team had advanced with a four-game conquest of **John Brazilian & Brian McGrory**, who had upset **Court Chilton & Jon Ross**. In the finals, Jon's power dominated the first two games before Rob & John adjusted, but a bit too late, dropping the third and final game, 18-17.

2006 MSRA Doubles Championships

(continued from page 2)

This year's surprise came in the Cs where unseeded and unknown Canuck hockey teammates **Neil Paterson & Mike**



2006 MSRA Women's Doubles:
Finalists: Dianne Smith & Hope Crosier; Champions: Lee Belknap & Mary McKee

McKee won five matches in a 20-team draw. Mike is not a stranger to squash, having the good fortune to be coached, mentored and the husband of Mary McKee, a many time state champion and highly ranked national player. The first omen came in their three-game quarter-final upset of second-seeded **Mark Coote & Scott Newton**, followed by a major struggle in the next round against the third seed, **Amrit Kanwal & Ross McIlvain**. Down two games, they survived overtime in the fourth and won the fifth at 12. In the other half another unseeded team, **Curt Lefebvre & Dean Williams**, decimated fourth seeds **Dave Riccio & Marty Stocklan** in the opening round, setting the tone for a relatively easy procession to the finals, aided by the default of the top seed **Matthew & Joel Kozol**, the latter another victim of a leg injury. The final was marked by Neil's consistency and Mike's unorthodox but effective shots, enough to escape by a point in the fourth game.

Meanwhile, on the adjoining court, Mary and her sister **Lee Belknap** were operating in the Women's final on **Hope Crosier & Dianne Smith**. The sisters had lost a game to Harvard Club professional **Sharon Bradey & Jeanne Blasberg** in the semis while Dianne and Hope had a much more dramatic semi-final,

surviving 16-15 in the fifth on a "stroke" call over **Lauren Holleran & Hope Prockop**. Everything went Mary & Lee's way in the final as they won convincingly in three games.

The sisters were on opposite sides in the full 16 Mixed draw. Two-time champions **Mary & Doug Lifford** replaced the third sister, Berkeley Revenaugh and husband Ross, who moved to San Francisco, as the top seed. They won three shutouts, the last over Harvard senior **Lily Lorentzen & Chris Spahr** to reach the final. Lee paired with **Pat Malloy** to win three straight shutouts as well. The final was an amazing exhibition of Pat's speed and court coverage, coupled with Lee's severe reverse corner, a combination which Mary and Doug could not overcome.



2006 MSRA "C" Doubles Tournament
Champions: Mike McKee & Neil Paterson; Finalists: Curt Lefebvre & Dean Williams

Leg injuries once again appeared in the 50s. **Lenny Bernheimer** pulled both calf muscles in the April World Championships, hobbling him to some degree in the semi-final with **Tom Poor** against **John Connolly & Derrick Niederman**. The latter pair advanced in four close games, with John holding his end on the left side. Defending champions **Malcolm Davidson & Jon Ross**

lost the first two games of their semi-final to **Joe Duffey & Fran Donlan** before rallying to win in five. That victory gave them enough momentum to win the final in three and their second title.



2006 MSRA "B" Doubles:
Finalists: Rob Dewees & John Palfrey; Champions: Tim Brennan & John Hyett

Lenny had more help in the 60s from partner **John Brazilian** as they rallied from a 15-2 opening game loss to win in four over former champions **Tom Poor & Peter Laird**. The new combination of **Ed Serues & Fran Donlan** was seeded first and advanced to the final with a four-game victory over a new participant in national tournaments, **Marty Stocklan & Bruce Shulman**. Ed and Fran looked like sure winners with two easy games under their belts in the final, only to see John improve his volleys as the determining factor in winning the last three games.

So the winners can crow for the summer while the losers lick their wounds and the injured heal theirs. Younger players like **Chris Vernick, Tim Brennan** and **Andrew Matuch** are making ripples. Older players like **John Brazilian, Court Chilton, Joe Cortes, Mat Sibble** and **Mark Panarese** have moved from the shadows to prominence. The larger numbers and the emergence of these players bode well for the future of doubles in Boston.

Junior Squash News for 2005–2006

by Libby McClintock

Massachusetts junior squash started off with a bang with the introduction of the New England Junior Open tournament, held in conjunction with the US Open in early November. This event was held at Harvard University's Murr Center and drew close to two hundred juniors (U13–U19) from all over the nation who came to compete against one another and watch the pros play. Many of the local juniors took the opportunity to play with the pros during the popular "Junior Jam".

In January, the MSRA Junior Committee held the Massachusetts Junior Open Tournament at the Murr Center, and attracted a wide range of juniors locally and from other states. In February, the Harvard Club held their successful Future Stars tournament that drew a large crowd of participants, and March wrapped up the Boston tournament season with the Massachusetts State Junior Championships. This event was only open to Massachusetts residents, and was hosted by SquashBusters at their wonderful facility at Northeastern University. Other state junior tournaments were the Purple Cow and the Berkshire Open, both run by **Zafi Levy** of Williams College.

Local Boston and area clubs participated in the Junior League, an MSRA program held at the Murr Center on Sundays in December and January. The Junior League is designed to give beginner and intermediate players experience in playing matches.

On a national level, many of our juniors competed in the USSRA "Selection Tournaments" and in the US Junior Nationals (Gold). The US Junior Nationals were held in March at Yale this year, and the Massachusetts juniors who competed were (followed by their national ranking #): (BU19) **Mark Froot** #2 (finished second), and **Chris Vernick** #25; (BU17) **Will Sullivan** #21; (BU15) **Julian Kirby** # 21; (BU13) **Liam McClintock** #3 (finished third), **Pehlaaj Bajwa** #7, and **Edward Columbia** #20; (GU17) **Cece Cortes** #4; (GU15) **Casey Cortes** #5, **Dori Rahbar** #12, **Sarah Loucks**, **Corey Schafer** #25, and **Ashley Brooks** #39.

Several of our juniors participated in the US Junior Nationals (Silver) tournament in Baltimore in April. This tournament is open to juniors who are nationally ranked below #32 in their age division. Some of the juniors chose to play "up" in an older age division. **Adam Vartikar** was the Champion of the BU17 division and **Taylor Foehl** took the Finalist trophy in the BU15. Other BU15 players were **Sam Tiff-Sokolsky**, **Matthew Baker-White**, and **Toby Koekkoek**. **James Fulham** and **Cheraag Bajwa** played in the BU11 division, and James placed first. **Sarah Crosky** captured the GU17 Championship title and **Allie Rubin** was the Finalist. **Kimron Bajwa** played in the GU13.

Local juniors who went to Philadelphia in February as part of the US Junior Training Squad this year were GU17 **Cece Cortes**, GU15 **Sarah Loucks** and **Casey Cortes**, and BU13 **Liam McClintock**. **Liam McClintock** made the US Junior Team that will compete against Canada in the Can-Am Junior Challenge or "Battle of the Borders" in September.

Four of our local U19 players, **Mark Froot**, **John Fulham**, **Chris Vernick**, and **Kristin Rubin**, will be heading off to college next fall to play squash. **Mark Froot**, co-captain of the Belmont Hill School squash team, was the ISL Champion. His school team won the ISL division 9-0. Mark qualified for the Junior US Men's Team that will travel to New Zealand for the World Junior Cup in July. **Chris Smith** of SquashBusters and Northeastern University is the Head Coach. Mark will be attending University of Pennsylvania next fall. **John Fulham**, also of Belmont Hill School and co-captain of the squash team, had an undefeated year in the ISL. He recently played in the US Under 23 Closed Tournament and lost in the semi-finals to world-ranked **Chris Gordon**, but defeated #1 ranked in U19 **Trevor McGuinness** in the 3-4 playoff. John is heading to Yale this fall. **Chris Vernick**, the number one player at Milton Academy, will be attending Cornell in the fall, and **Kristin Rubin**, also the top player at Milton, will be going to Hamilton College. Best of luck to all of you next year!

The MSRA Junior Committee likes to recognize players who are committed to the sport regardless of their experience and level. This year's Most Improved Player Awards went to **Sarah Crosky**, **Katherine Nimmo**, and **Greg Crane**. The Best Sportsman Awards went to **Amory Bennett** and **Eliana Saltzman**. The Camp Awards, scholarships for a summer squash program, was given to SquashBusters **Stephen Vo** and **Ashley Brooks**. Stephen will be attending the Power Squash Camp at Dartmouth this summer, and Ashley plans on using her Award money for the Holleran Girls Camp at St. Paul's School.

Congratulations to all of you juniors for your hard work and dedication, and we look forward to a fun squash season next year!

Massachusetts Juniors in the USSRA Rankings

as of May 13, 2006



Boys Under 13

3	McClintock, Liam	Wellesley, MA
7	Bajwa, Pehlaaj	Cambridge, MA
20	Columbia, Edward	Charlestown, MA
28	Fulham, James	Wellesley, MA
55	Vo, Steven	Roxbury Crossing, MA
67	Bell, Henry	Brookline, MA
69	Kaelin, Tripp	Boston, MA
95	Gertler, William	Weston, MA

Boys Under 15

21	Kirby, Julian	Dover, MA
24	Foehl, Taylor	Williamstown, MA
29	Tiff-Sokolsky, Sam	Williamstown, MA
64	Gentle, Eddie	Roxbury Crossing, MA
66	Lillie, Michael	Weston, MA
71	Chase, Peter	Dover, MA
78	Danyluk, Stephan	Williamstown, MA
79	Mahmood, Eitezaz	Sharon, MA
88	Mack, Peter	N. Eastham, MA
91	McClintock, Conor	Wellesley, MA
93	Rahbar, Cameron	Newton, MA
96	Harris, Kai	Roxbury Crossing, MA
97	Soto, Darryl	Roxbury Crossing, MA
98	Koekkoek, Toby	Sudbury, MA
108	Peguero, Luis	Roxbury Crossing, MA
110	German, Ronald	Roxbury Crossing, MA
115	Guerra, Jhonatan	Roxbury Crossing, MA
116	Coplin, Randy	Roxbury Crossing, MA
120	Saint-Vil, Serge	Roxbury Crossing, MA
128	Cheney, Samuel	Brookline, MA
136	Bohlen, Turner	Southborough, MA

Boys Under 17

20	Vartikar, Adam	Brookline, MA
21	Sullivan, William	Milton, MA
29	Bennett, Amory	Brookline, MA
32	Gertler, Charles	Weston, MA
47	Souza, Pedro	Roxbury Crossing, MA
49	Williams, Patrick	Roxbury Crossing, MA
71	Smith III, Earl	Brookline, MA
72	Nimmo, John	Wellesley, MA
75	Darlington, Mikhail	Roxbury Crossing, MA
82	Crane, Greg	Boston, MA
86	Wong, Jeremy	Newton, MA
88	Mahmood, Bilal	Sharon, MA
101	Jalloh, Mahmud	Roxbury Crossing, MA
108	Kirkconnell, Ellery	Roxbury Crossing, MA
122	Feliciano, Ismael	Roxbury Crossing, MA
123	Mirman, Mathew	Brooklyn NY

Boys Under 19

2	Froot, Mark	Sudbury, MA
5	Fulham, John	Wellesley, MA
11	Dowd, Ryan	Weston, MA
25	Vernick, Christopher	West Roxbury, MA
57	Macalaster, Andrews	Wellesley, MA
91	Place, Alex	Milton, MA

Girls Under 13

31	Ramirez, Yuleissy	Roxbury Crossing, MA
38	Johnson, Mikaela	Needham, MA
44	Huynh, Jennifer	Roxbury Crossing, MA
58	Ross, Charlotte	Newton, MA
59	Hartnick, Marina	Newton, MA

Girls Under 15

5	Cortes, Casey	Cambridge, MA
12	Rahbar, Dori	Newton, MA
23	Jones, Courtney	Holden, MA
25	Schafer, Corey	Natick, MA
39	Brooks, Ashley	Roxbury Crossing, MA
41	Fagan, Serena	Weston, MA
44	Duke, Paige	Dover, MA
45	Vega, Bianca	Roxbury Crossing, MA
52	Coffin, Hannah	Chestnut Hill, MA
64	Duke, Chapin	Dover, MA
67	Nimmo, Katherine	Wellesley, MA
70	Luna, Soranyi	Roxbury Crossing, MA
73	Tran, Andrea	Roxbury Crossing, MA
75	Hannah Wornum, Nyasha	Roxbury Crossing, MA
77	Walker, Jaleesa	Roxbury Crossing, MA
88	Lopez, Ana	Roxbury Crossing, MA
90	Dickson, Alexis	Roxbury Crossing, MA
94	Montenegro, Lizeth	Roxbury Crossing, MA
108	Hiley, Megan	Williamstown, MA

Girls Under 17

4	Cortes, Cece	Cambridge, MA
18	Crosky, Sarah	Williamstown, MA
22	Rubin, Alli	Boston, MA
41	Saltzman, Eliana	Newton, MA
49	Braga, Judy	Roxbury Crossing, MA
52	Beaton, Paige	Wellesley, MA
54	Tran, Thuong	Roxbury Crossing, MA
61	Harrison, Louisa	Dedham, MA
70	Garrett, Ashley	Roxbury Crossing, MA

Girls Under 19

29	Rubin, Kristen	Boston, MA
43	Tall, Emma	Wellesley, MA
45	Laird, Elena	Cambridge, MA

MSRA end-of-year adult and junior rankings are now posted on the website (www.ma-squash.org).

MSRA Women's State Championships

by Suzi Melotti



SquashBusters' Suzi Melotti explaining to Paul Ansdell at Concord-Acton that he has not provided enough carb-loaded drinks for the women to sustain themselves for their state tournament matches.

The MSRA's State Championships for women were held at Concord-Acton Squash Club over the weekend of April 1st and 2nd. There were three main draws based on skill levels: 2.5, 3.5, and 4.5+.

The 2.5 skill level saw a huge draw, with 30 women entering the competition. There were a number of close matches on the first day: **Melissa London** and **Debbie Harrison** fought it out for five games, which saw many long rallies; Melissa was the eventual winner. **Sabrina Davies** and **Sue Hill** went point for point in a long first-round match, which Davies eventually won 3-2. **Maria Mayorga** had an excellent tournament, particularly on the second day, where she played two five-game matches against higher ranked players, winning both to take her to her first MSRA final. There she met **Jimena Velarde**, who had a slightly easier path to the final, though it was also her first. Velarde overcame Mayorga to win 3-1 in a match full of long points. Big congratulations to both of these players, particularly as neither was seeded in this draw.

The 3.5 draw saw 14 entrants, four of whom were seeded. The seeding was very accurate in this draw, with **Szilvie Szombati** (1) taking the win over **Bry Roskoz** (4) in one semi-final, and the **Meredith Johnson** (2) taking the win over **Kara Kardon** (3) in the other semi-final. Johnson took Szombati to five games in the final, but Szombati prevailed to take the win 3-2.

The 4.5+ main draw saw fewer players participating than in past years. **Jeannie Blasberg** and **Orla O'Doherty** had a superb game in the quarterfinals, with O'Doherty coming from 2-0 down to tie it up at 2-2; however, she couldn't hold on to the momentum, and Blasberg took it in the fifth game 9-6. **Lillian Rosenthal** (2) and **Wendy Ansdell** (3) also had a good match in the semi's, with Ansdell prevailing for the victory 3-0. **Hope Prockop** and **Jeannie Blasberg** met in the other semi-final, with Prockop taking a 3-0 win. This set up **Wendy Ansdell** versus **Hope Prockop** in a much-anticipated final. Unfortunately, the match was not played, due to an injury to Prockop, so Ansdell won by default. We wish Hope a speedy recovery.

It was a very enjoyable weekend for all the women involved, both on and off the court. I think I speak on behalf of all the players when I say that we are lucky and grateful that the MSRA allows this event to take place over the course of one weekend, as opposed to the self-scheduling of matches that happens in the open and age groups draws.

Many thanks to Paul and Wendy Ansdell for hosting the tournament again this year—don't forget to have an extra keg on hand next year, Paul! Also, thanks to Dominique Farinaux-Dumas for organizing such a great tournament.



3.5 player Margo Grossberg (l) gives 2.5 player Melissa London expert advice during one of her matches.


www.SQUASHTALK.com



*Squash news and gear.
Match & instructional DVDs.*

*Wide Selection of Prince products
Complete range of HiTec shoes*

*www.squashtalk.com/videos
online or visit us by appointment at
6 Franklin Place, Acton MA
978-266-1300*

Scenes from the MSRA Women: 2005–2006



(Above) Szilvie Sombati and Meredith Johnson before their championship match in the women's 3.5 division. Szilvie won in a very close match.



(Above) Chrissy Jones (l) and Kara Kardon, both of Concord-Acton, smile after a hard-fought match in the 3.5 division.



(Above) The Women's 3.5 league finalists (l-r): Liz Reynolds (UC), Kara Kardon (CASC), Margo Grossberg (CASC), Naomi Bradshaw (CASC), Vera Middlesworth (UC), Meredith Johnson (UC), and Tina Wu (CASC) celebrate after their matches.

MSRA Archives

by Linda Watts

In the last issue of the MSRA News (Winter 2006), we announced the undertaking of an archives project for the MSRA. We have a long history dating back to our founding in 1902, and we want to preserve it for the future.

By now, you must have starting your spring cleaning, but since spring comes so late to New England, you may not be finished yet. Do you have old trophies or photos collecting dust or taking up space? Or perhaps you have some documents or other mementos of squash interest.

One donation that we have already received is a history of the Andover Racquets Club. I immediately thought, "Great idea! Wouldn't it be great to get a history of all our member clubs?!" It is likely that such histories already exist for some member clubs. If so, please send them along to me and if not, how about putting one together for your club?

Our first steps for this project are to create an inventory of memorabilia so that we can plan what type of collection and storage we will need to use. Please contact me if you have items that you would like to share with us. Thank you in advance for your help with our archives project.

—Linda Watts, lindawatts@ma-squash.org, 617-578-3064

MSRA 2006-2007 Leagues - Key Dates

Due to the timing of our Winter League (which starts in the fall and ends in the spring!), I want to make you aware of the proposed league dates now, as the signup period starts before our next scheduled newsletter in the Fall. First of all, league signups and startups have shifted earlier, then later, then earlier again over recent years as we try to find the right combination of startup and duration for the leagues.

The general consensus has been that 15–16 weeks is the right length for the larger leagues. Prior to last year, we started in early November and players felt there were not enough matches played before the holiday break, the holiday break was too long, and the leagues ended too late in the spring. So last year, we started signups sooner, kept the holiday break at two weeks, and finished the regular seasons by mid-March. It might be no surprise that we received feedback that the signups were too early and that the holiday break wasn't long enough (leagues perhaps conflicting with holiday parties!) but the end of the season timing seemed OK.

We are giving the earlier startup another try, so we are telling you far in advance so you aren't surprised when you receive the league signup information in early Sept. To have a better balance of matches before and after the holiday break, we need to start by mid-October. Correspondingly, we need to complete the signup period by late-September. Make note of these key dates:

9/5/06 - League Signup Mailing **9/29/06 - League Signup Deadline** **10/16/06 - Leagues Start this week**

Thanks in advance for getting your league teams organized so that we can keep to the above target dates.

Linda Watts, lindawatts@ma-squash.org, 617-578-3064

State Softball Championships

by Fran Donlan, Men's Tournament Coordinator

The University Club was the gracious host of the 2006 Massachusetts State Softball Championships on Thursday evening, April 6, 2006. The first of 15 championship matches of men, women, age groups and skill levels squared off at 5 pm sharp. Back in mid-February, over 200 squash players from all over Massachusetts threw down the gauntlet, and this was the night to determine who was stronger, faster, smarter and ultimately the champion in their respective division for 2006.

The University Club was ready and willing to put on a great show. With an expected attendance of over 125, plenty of tasty food was passed out throughout the entire evening. The cash bar provided the patrons with a chance to "lighten up," watch the matches and enjoy the camaraderie of other squash players.

Kudos to the MSRA for their generosity in donating not one, but two kegs of the finest Sam Adams beer.

Of the 15 matches there were only two five "gamers." In the men's 60+ draw, **Fran Donlan** came back from a 2-1 deficit to beat **Bert Kornyei**.

Arguably the best match of the night, to the detriment of the local University Club pro **Chris Spahr**, was the **UNBELIEVABLE** comeback win by **David Bennett**, who plays out of Concord-Acton and Baltimore, Maryland. Down 2-0, Bennet staved off two match points and somehow, with relentless pursuit and ironman stamina, crept back into the third game. Slowly and methodically, Bennet kept the rallies long and waited for his spots to make points. Ironically, Bennet duplicated this same effort (not by intention, I'm sure) at the recent US Nationals at Yale. There too, Bennett, being down 2-0 and 6-1 in the third, managed to come back and beat a very strong, seasoned and ranked player, **Will Carlin**.

Local Union Boat Club pro, **Mark Lewis** beat University Club Pro **Jason Hicks**, 3-0 in the men's 35+.

In the marquee 5.5 match, Tennis & Racquet Club pro **Dan Sharplin** beat the youthful, strong and bunny-rabbit-fast University Club member, **Patrick Malloy**, 3-0, although not without some consternation to Dan in the first game as "Pat" made some incredible points. The former pro was just too strong for Pat, as Dan won the Open 5.5 title for the third year in a row title. (Getting seven points on Dan Sharplin is a major accomplishment!)

In the men's 65+, the great barrister and perennial winner, **Michael Keating** of the Union Boat Club, defeated **Doug Lee** 3-0, of the Cambridge Racquet & Fitness Club.

In the 4.0, University Club teammates, **Amrit Kanwal** and **Dave Shulman**, played their umpteenth game against each other, with Amrit prevailing, 3-0.

In the women's 40+, the always tough and well-conditioned **Jeanne Blasberg** of the Harvard Club defeated the very strong **Julia Moore**, 3-0. Julia also plays at the Harvard Club.

In the 45+, Union Boat Club member **Philip Constable** defeated long-time foe and long-time friend, **Bob Brownell** of Belmont Hill and the Harvard Club, 3-0.

University Club member and always tough, **Malcolm Davidson** won easily over University Club member **Fran Donlan** (who had just finished a five-game win) in the 55+.

In the Open 4.5, **Jeff Carter** of Sports Club LA, continued his undefeated string of matches by beating Concord-Acton member, **Will Bigelow**, 3-1. Will returned to competitive squash this year after several years away; he played squash at Tufts as an undergraduate.

University Club member **Derek Niederman** won his second-year-in-a-row Men's 50+ match over fellow University Club member **John Connolly**.

Tim Egan of the Union Boat Club, defeated Union Boat Club member **Grant Godfrey** 3-0 in the Open 3.5.

Dan Hullah, Boston Racquet Club member, defeated **Steven Schmitt**, of the Tennis & Racquet Club 3-1 in the men's 2.5 division.

In the women's 2.5, Boston Sports Club member **Jimena Velarde** defeated **Maria Mayorga** of the Cambridge Racquet & Fitness Club, 3-1. Both women were coming off a great tournament in the early rounds, in which they each had multiple wins over higher ranked players.

In the 70+ (yes, these guys are still playing squash at this wonderful age of 70+), Boston Sports Club's **Will Jansen** defeated **Lee Engler** of the Maugus Club, 3-0.

The women's 3.5 final was held separately, but The Maugus Club's **Szilvie Sombati** defeated University Club's own **Meredith Johnson**, 3-2, in a tightly contested match. Szilvie must be benefitting from the coaching of her better half, Maugus pro Cliff Wenn.

By 10 pm, the "battlefields" were empty, the champions were adorned, congratulations were bestowed, and yes, both kegs of beer were finished; a testament to a fantastic finish of another squash season for the Massachusetts Squash Racquets Association. See you next year!

Adult League Wrapup

Open 5.0

David Adams, League Chair

University Club I def. T&R 3-1!!! In a rematch of last year's finals, the UClub I team of **Nadeem Osman, Pat Malloy, Doug Lifford** and captain **Scott Poirier** got some revenge. The #3 and #4 matches went on first with **Doug Lifford** vs. **Chris Lang** and **Scott Poirier** vs. **David Tedeschi**. The league experience of Lifford and Poirier showed as they came out of the gates quickly with two 3-0 wins.

With the pressure on, **Daniel Sharplin** took the court with **Nadeem Osman** and **Mike Semprucci**, fresh from training in England, prepared to take on **Pat Malloy**. Mike's training showed; he attacked at every opportunity, but Pat kept the pace up and wore Mike down with impeccable length. The match lasted almost an hour, but Pat walked away with a 3-0 win.

On the other court, **Nadeem Osman** came back from 2-8 down in the first to win 10-8, thereby taking the first game **EVER** from Sharplin in league play. Sharplin recovered from this mental lapse to win the second going away. In the third, Nadeem came back from 5-2 down to win 9-6, putting Sharplin in a 2-1 hole. With his back to the wall, Sharplin increased the pace and played exceedingly tight squash to take the fourth game 9-2. With his legs failing rapidly, Nadeem started to shoot early and often in the fifth, but Sharplin tracked everything down. Despite some spectacular points, Sharplin took the fifth game 9-0. Congrats to both teams for a fantastic season!

So for the 2006–2007 season, can anyone topple the mighty UClub and T&R franchises? With **John Fulham** off to college, will Sharplin and company make another run at the title? Will Semprucci be able to consolidate his UK training into league dominance next year? Who will **Scott Poirier** bring in to augment his team of stalwarts? Where will the nomadic **Dave Adams** play next year? Will the Harvard Club be able to spring **Mike Blumberg** free from work often enough to make them a contender? So many questions. Start training early for next year. The 5.5 league just keeps getting better...

Open 4.5

Dan Reagan, League Chair

4.5 Open Tournament Summary

With one of the largest draws (51 players), the Open 4.5 tourney was marked by excellent, competitive squash! There were many close matches, and all reports indicated friendly matches/good sportsmanship. There was great enthusiasm for this tourney—there was only one coin flip due to scheduling problems!

Seeds: Only 2 of the 8 seeds made the quarterfinals! The #1 and #7 seeds **Tariq Mohammed** and **Peter Lee** went down early with injuries. Other seeds lost out in a field of good players: #3 **Alex McFerran** lost to a hot **Ric Calvillo**; #4 **Adam Bushashia** lost out to quick/steady **Justin Wolfe**; #5 **Eric Godes** lost to unseeded and eventual tourney winner **Jeff Carter**, and #8 **Showbhik Kalra** lost to a strong **Colin Sullivan**. “Just *show up* and you never know what might happen!”

Good/close matches: 11 matches went to five games. Remarkable matches included the win by **Reese Genser** over **Jay Bradner** 10-9 in the fifth game, after a self-refereed let “point” call during the overtime portion of game 5. (Congrats to both Jay and Reese for the mature conduct/good sportsmanship.) And **Ric Calvillo** managed two 3-2 wins in a row to make it to

the semifinals, beating out #3 seed **Alex McFerran** (10-8 in the 5th) and then #6 seed **Gerry Kirschner**. Other 3-2 marathon matches included the following: **David Phillimore** (winner)/**Ashley Robinson, Amrit Kanwal/Mike Lapham, Andy Goldfarb/Tim Blank, Rich Schafer/Bob Frazier, Tim Brennan/Chris Choi, Gerry Kirschner/Reese Genser, and Nadeem Mazen/Wendy Ansdell**.

Names to watch: Those who played better than expected, or who gave tough opponents a run for the money included: **Nadeem Mazen** and **Ric Calvillo** (both unseeded semifinalists), **Justin Wolfe** (beat #4 seed), **Andy Goldfarb** (a close match against **Will Bigelow**) and **Chris Choi** (a five-game match with **Tim Brennan**.)

The top players: The quarterfinalists all deserved to be there: **Nadeem Mazen, Wendy Ansdell, Jeff Carter, Justin Wolfe, Ric Calvillo, Gerry Kirschner, Rich Schafer, and Will Bigelow**. All matches were good!

In the quarterfinals, Nadeem eked out a five-game win over Concord-Acton's **Wendy Ansdell**, and Ric won a close five-game battle over Gerry. Jeff and Will had slightly easier times (but not by much) with wins over Justin and Rich respectively.

In the semifinals, Jeff and Will managed 3-1 wins over Nadeem and Ric, respectively, but don't be fooled, as Jeff and Will eked out their 4th games 10-8!

The final was a battle. One comment in the crowd was, “When have we seen, or when will we see again, a 4.5 final at this level?” In the end, it was Jeff's youth, energy, gets, and steady play over Will's experience, craftiness, and determination. Game 1 went to Will, with great drops and a huge effort. Games 2 and 3 went quickly to Jeff, and after game 3, Will ran out of gas. Congrats Jeff, Will, and all participants!

4.5 League Wrapup

Another excellent season! Although the season-end standings were relatively unchanged, the second half was marked by great squash, great competition, and great sportsmanship! Congrats to the some of the “award winners.”

Top Three Regular-Season Teams: #1 Concord, #2 Union Boat, and #3 MIT. These teams consistently fielded a strong lineup and played at a level above the rest. Concord, the toughest, included **Will Bigelow, Justin Wolfe, Wendy Ansdell, Nick Nevin, Erik Kirby, Dave Prockop, Roger Jones, and Jan Kansky**. UBC sported fewer players: **Alex McFerran, Bill Boardman, John Gates, Gordon Cromwell, Philip Laird, and Hugh O'Donnell**. And MIT were the surprise of the top, led by: **Adam Bushashia, Peter Lee, Nadeem Mazen, Clint Lawler, Christopher Malenfant, Mahmood Khwaja, and Bryan Robinson**.

“Second Season” Winners (playoff champs): Concord, a truly awesome team this year. Can they repeat? The gauntlet has been thrown down!

Surprise of the Playoffs: UClub. This #7 seed team beat out the #2 (UBC) and #3 (MIT) seeds to make it to the finals. Awesome playoff performances from **Ric Calvillo, Gerry Kirschner, Tim Brennan, Dan Hogan, and Fran Donlan**.

Good sportsmanship awards: Too many to mention here! Let's just say the season was marked by very few reports of awkward or difficult situations. Thanks all!

(continued on page 10)

Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

(continued from page 9)

Best momentum at season's end: Maugus-One. When these guys are in shape and all there, you see how good they are: **Reese Genser, Eric Godes, Rich Schafer, Bob Frazier, Adrian King, and Robert Wagenaar.**

Promoted Players: **Jeff Carter** (US and MSRA Champ), **Tariq Mohammed,** and **Will Bigelow.** Good luck next year!

Players to Watch: Some of these players only began to shine at season's end: **Alex McFerran, David Tedeschi, Chris Beliveau, Gerry Kirschner, Adam Bushashia, Matthew Dunn, Jeremy Wintersteen, Ric Calvillo, Adrian Gill, Justin Wolfe, Wendy Ansdell, Nadeem Mazen, and Hugh O'Donnell.**

Open 4.0

Kevin Hollister, League Chair

This third season of the 4.0 league was the best yet: more competitive play, stronger teams, dedicated players and engaged captains. Each year these attributes of 4.0 league have improved and proven that its addition into the MSRA league structure was a great move for both the leagues and the players. If this trend holds true, next season should be fantastic.

The league was comprised of 11 teams again this season, with a first-time SquashBusters team and a Maugus Club team that took a season off last year. We all look forward to both teams improving next season and competing for a spot in the playoffs. It certainly was a pleasure to play at the SquashBusters facility and to hear the bowling pins at Maugus, too.

The competition this season reached a new high with eight teams fighting it out until the final week of the regular season to qualify for a spot in the six-team playoff format. The Maugus Club lost its last match to BRC to fall from contention and MIT, last season's 4.0 champions, was all but eliminated the previous week by Union Boat and did not get enough help from other teams the final week to make the cut.

In the six-team format, the top two seeds received byes the first week and stood on the sidelines as Union Boat traveled across town and ran into a tough Tennis & Racquet Club, which managed to pull out a close-fought victory. T&R had been near the top of the standings all season and moved into the semi-finals. In a battle far to the west, BSC Waltham visited Concord-Acton and earned a well-deserved 4-1 victory, utilizing a deep roster to continue their season.

In the semis, both T&R and BSC Waltham were reminded that the two top teams were there for a reason. BRC's 13-player roster was too much for the visiting T&R, as BRC swept all the matches and into the final. In the other semi, BSC was unlucky to have to visit the University Club, a team that was virtually untouchable and was planted in first place since October. The UClub also won all the matches and moved on to the finals.

The stage was then set for the finals, rightfully pitting the two teams that finished first and second in the standings against each other in a face-to-face match. As was the case all season, the BRC team's depth made for some close matches but the top four players are the only ones on the courts and at least for that match, the UClub prevailed 3-1 and won the championship.

It must be noted that the UClub was led by two of the top players, no doubt an unfair (or at least unbalanced) advantage that ensured their success. **Amrit Kanwal**, captain and often #1 player, was undefeated during the regular season and playoffs, accumulating a 12-0 record. **Dave Shulman**, who often played

at #2, was also undefeated during the regular season amassing a 12-0 record. **Kate Blood** and **Michael Arends** were regular winners and **Ilya Voloshin, Liz Steffey** and **Jon Hartnett** all had winning records to round out the powerhouse line-up. Congratulations to the University Club on their fantastic season.

The 4.0 individual tournament went a bit less smoothly than the regular season but featured great match-ups, which included some players from outside the league. The 4.0 league players acquitted themselves well as the finals featured the best from the league—**Dave Shulman** and **Amrit Kanwal** fighting it out for the 4.0 crown, despite the best efforts to construct the tournament draw to avoid the repetition from the league results (not really). On finals night, it was Amrit who came out on top and another championship was won on the home courts.

I would like to thank all of the players who participated in the 4.0 league. There was great participation (few defaults) and there has certainly been a trend toward more competitive squash in the league over the last 3 years. Of course, much of the credit for a great season goes to the captains who performed their roles flawlessly. Thank you all; I hope to see you in the fall.

Open 3.0

Simon Graham, League Chair

As I look back on the season, I thought it would be interesting to contrast the two teams who made it to the finals this year—runners up BSC-Waltham and the victorious Union Boat Club team. At first glance, they seem like chalk and cheese, but when you look under the covers, you can see that they can be seen as the same people at different points in their lives.

Most of the "older generation" players from the BSC-Waltham team started playing at college or in their early twenties when they played the hardball game. In fact, the #1 Waltham player, **Jon Hickok**, played at UBC in his 20s and was the B champion there. He goes on to say that he then raised three kids and his weight, returning to the game in his mid-40s—I've played Jon and I can state categorically that he's back!

Meanwhile, the youthful UBC team are almost all in their 20s (except for their captain **Jonas McCray** who is a staggeringly old 34!) and are young professionals who live and work ridiculously long hours in Boston. This amazing team of players came into the league this season and dominated it winning almost 85% of their matches, ending the regular season 3 points ahead of their nearest rivals (BSC-Waltham) and almost 15 points clear of the other clubs. They are on a rapid ascent to the 4.0 league next season and, I am sure, beyond that in the future.

In assembling this missive, I received some other quotes from the BSC team that I couldn't let pass. First of all, number three **Steve Cohen** who described his style of play thus;

"My game strategy is modeled after that of Jonathan Power with one important exception. He hits the ball where he wants it to go: I hit it and it reaches the front wall through a process of self-determination."

Secondly, from Jon Hickok, the following quote nicely sums up why we come back every year to play in the league;

"As a team member at Healthpoint [sic] I've loved the camaraderie, post-match cheer and exaggeration. I'm in statewide rankings but what I'm proud of is this year's team."

This is my last report as Open 3.5 League Chair; I've

Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

(continued from page 10)

enjoyed my four years enormously, most of all because of exactly what Jon said above; the camaraderie and post-match cheer of the players in the league. We're a diverse lot with one common thread; this game and the enjoyment of friendly competition and I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for making my job easy and hugely enjoyable.

Lastly, the standings at the end of the regular season were as follows:

Team	Points	% Won
1 Union Boat Club	67	84%
2 BSC - Waltham	63	79%
3 Tennis & Racquet	53	66%
4 Concord Acton	48	60%
5 Cambridge Racquet	45	56%
6 University Club	43	54%
7 Boston Racquet Club	41	51%
8 Maugus Club	39	49%
9 Longfellow Club	37	46%
10 Sports Club/LA	22	28%
11 BSC - Allston	15	19%
12 Harvard Club	5	6%

Open 2.5

Carl Cummings, League Chair

The 2.5 league for 2005-06 was a tale of two seasons. In the regular season, Andover Racquets flexed its perennial strength to lead the league wire to wire, winning every match, only one of which was as close as 3-2. Led by **Steve McKaughan**, who won 12 of his 13 matches at #1, and **Fred Eustis** and **Mark Attarian**, who were 9-0 and 11-2, respectively, at lower positions, Andover captured nearly 91% of the match points available to it. Fighting it out below them, Concord-Acton and Boston Racquet Club met in the last week of the regular season tied for second place. C-A won to hold second and relegate BRC to third, while Union Boat Club slid quietly into fourth. At the other end of the standings, Tennis & Racquet Club finished with consecutive strong victories to overtake a faltering University Club for the eighth and last playoff spot.

T&R's ascension was Andover's fall in the "second" season, the playoffs. T&R's **Glenn Goldman**, who was injured much of the year, came back just in time to take on the tough McKaughan, Goldman prevailing, 3-1. Goldman's presence allowed **Phillipe Eger**, who had been undefeated in the regular season, and the rapidly improving **Steve Schmitt** to drop down and together they engineered the shocking upset of the no. 1 seed by the no. 8. The other first round playoff matches followed form as UBC defeated Cambridge Racquet, BRC defeated Newton Squash and C-A defeated FoMaMA, all by 3-1 scores.

Things tightened up after that. In strikingly similar semifinal matches in which the winners relied on their depth to get through, UBC defeated BRC and C-A broke T&R's slipper. In each of the semifinals, the losing team won the no. 1 match, 3-0, and the no. 2 match, 3-2, but lost the no. 3, 3-1, and the no. 4, 3-0. That made for split matches but added up to 8 games for each of the winning teams to only 7 for their opponents.

In the finals, the matches again split, 2-2, but UBC took 9 games to C-A's 8 to claim the championship. Although the teams didn't have to count points to determine the winner, it's a sign of how close it was that UBC had 115 points and C-A had 114.

Congratulations to Andover on its regular season suc-

cess, UBC on its championship and to all on a fun and competitive season.

Women's 3.5/4.0

Bry Roskoz, League Chair

It seems that the women's 3.5/4.0 league has established a playoff tradition. Concord-Acton wins the regular season, the UClub slacks off a little at the end of the season and winds up in second place. CASC hosts the University Club in the finals and despite Concord-Acton's best efforts (including serving pork tenderloin!), the University Club pulls it out to win the final. Such was the pattern for at least the 3rd year in a row! The rest of the team results saw SCLA and HC tie for 3rd place with 28 points each and Boston Squash Team finish with 13 points.

In the dramatic final, at the #1 position **Meredith Johnson** pulled it out vs. Concord-Acton captain **Kara Kardon**. After the match Kara commented, "I gave it my all but Meredith just wouldn't let me play my game." Although we're not exactly sure what kind of game Kara hoped to play, we interpret this to mean that Meredith found her deep game and didn't give up a lot of points to Kara's "graceful" forehand drops.

In the second position, **Liz Reynolds** (UC) played **Tina Wu** (C-A). Liz has been leading a European jet setting life lately, so Tina's goal was to send Liz packing. Despite winning a game, Tina was unable to make up for the one-foot difference in wing span between her and Liz and ultimately lost 3-1.

In the third position, UClub captain **Vera Van Middlesworth** duked it out with **Margo Grossberg** (C-A). Both Vera and Margo returned to league play this year after being sidelined with back injuries so this was a test to see whose back would win in the end. Once again the UClub demonstrated its strength with Vera winning 3-0. Unfortunately, the UClub had to default the 4th position due to travel and injuries.

After the matches, Concord-Acton hosted a fine banquet of cheeses and crackers, pork tenderloin (to feed the whole club), salad, gourmet mash potatoes, cookies, fruit, wines, etc. Vera commented, "We really enjoyed ourselves—it's a good thing we didn't eat first." (Hmmm, CASC strategy for next year?) It was such a good spread that the men's teams playing at Concord-Acton that night helped themselves to the goodies.

Congratulations to both the University Club on their win and to Concord-Acton as finalists! A huge thanks also go out to the captains for a successful season.

Women's 2.5

Sarah Lemaire, League Chair

The Women's 2.5 league hosted nine teams this year. Maugus Green, led by captain **Ruth Chamberlin**, led the league standings for most of the year, and won the playoffs. In the first round of the playoffs, Maugus Green defeated their Maugus Blue compatriots 5-0, as did SquashBusters against an undermanned CASC team. But the final was much closer, due to the fact that **Betsy Hargreaves** didn't plan her vacation around her squash schedule. (Plan ahead next year, Betsy!) **Corey Schafer** and **Lucy Bradley** won at #1 and #2, but SquashBusters' **Liz Young** and **Suzi Melotti** won at #3 and #4. It was **Sabrina Davies'** lone game against **Liz Young** that clinched the match and the title for Maugus Green. Congratulations!

It was a record year for juniors in the W2.5 league, espe-

(continued on page 12)

Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

(continued from page 11)

cially from Maugus. Maugus Green's **Corey Schafer** finished the season at #1—congratulate her the next time you see her! Apologies to **Paige Beaton** for omitting her from the list of juniors in last winter's MSRANews.

Yours truly headed west instead of sticking around for the state championships, and everything ran amok. I'm not talking about the always well-organized tournament matches and food and drink (thanks to incomparable team of **Wendy Ansdell** and **Dominique Farniaux-Dumas**), but the tournament upsets turned the season-end rankings upside down. Congratulations are due to champion **Jimena Velarde** and finalist **Maria Mayorga**, who were responsible for most of those upsets. Both Jimena and Maria improved a lot this year, and they're especially tough when you meet them in a tournament. Congratulations are also due to **Peg Sestrich**. She played #1 and #2 for Concord-Acton and was the only player who played more than three matches and finished undefeated in league play.

Thanks to captains **Ruth Chamberlin**, **Dominique Farinaux-Dumas**, **Maria Mayorga**, **Becky Lingard**, **Kate Lowrie**, **Susan Mygatt**, **Ton Ton Russell**, **Ivana Jovanovic**, **Lisa Macalaster**, and last but not least, party animal **Coleen Phillimore**. Coleen already has me on a training regimen for next fall! Thanks to for making my job so easy! Additional thanks to MSRA's women's league coordinator **Bry Roskoz** for always being the voice of reason.

50 +

Sam Magruder, League Chair Three-Way Battle for 50+ League Crown in the Second Half

The 50+ League completed the season with Concord-Acton, Boston Racquet and Union Boat in the top half of the standings. Occasional upsets notwithstanding, the other three teams—Maugus, Harvard and Milton—never seriously challenged for the top half in the standings. However, the leveling effect of the handicaps put every match in question, and several upsets added to the excitement, resulting in the tight finish to the regular season summarized in the table below. Concord-Acton never relinquished its lead, but by late January, its lead was down to a mere 2 points over the Boston Racquet Club.

That drama was extinguished the next week as Concord-Acton showed up at the home of their closest pursuer and played four close matches. However, **Shef Halsey**, **Jim Cronin**, **Phil Brewer** and **Steve Steinberg** won them all. That match allowed the Union Boat Club into second place as they pummeled the Harvard Club 4-1, with only a 3-2 win by **Len Miller** over **Chris Fox** averting the shutout.

The February 13 matches saw BRC reassert its dominance in a head-to-head match with UBC, winning 4-1, as the undefeated **Barclay Douglas** pinned a season-first loss on **Bob Loring**. **John Hemenway**, who won all four matches that he played, kept UBC in contention.

In the bottom half of the standings, Maugus played steadily, overhauling the Harvard Club for fourth, highlighted by late-season wins over both UBC and the BRCs. With one week to go, Concord-Acton was cruising and BRC had a four-point advantage over Union Boat Club. Captain **Mike MacDonald** of BRC knew he needed at least one win at the Maugus Club to guarantee a least a tie with Union Boat, and since he held a 2-1 head-to-head record, that would get him

second place and the first playoff round BYE. But it wasn't easy. UBC did its part and swept Milton. Maugus, a willing spoiler, took the top three matches as **Mark Dickinson**, **Martin Deale** and **Larry Hargraeves** all won. **Rick Curtin** was up 2-0 on rookie **Chris Alt**, but the handicap changes eventually took their toll. Chris won in five games, playing out the MacDonald strategy perfectly.

Team	Points	% Won
Concord Acton	53	70.7%
Boston Racquet Club	46	61.3%
Union Boat Club	46	61.3%
Maugus Club	32	42.7%
Harvard Club	25	33.3%
Milton	21	28.0%

The Playoffs Begin

In the playoffs, the Round 1 matches were 3 versus 6 and 4 versus 5. Union Boat Club put its winningest players, **Bob Loring**, **Chris Fox**, **Jon Smith** and **John Hemenway**, on the court and swept past Milton. Only **Eddie Lee** managed to steal a game at in the #1 match.

The Harvard Club traveled to Maugus for the other match. **Len Miller** played his best match of the season to take a 3-0 decision from **Mark Dickenson**. Maugus's **Larry Hargraeves** and **Rick Curtin** both won close matches over **Sam Magruder** and **Charlie Norris**, leaving the final result up to an improving, but still winless, **Marc Cendron** battling Captain **Keith Munsell**. Marc's 3-1 win gave the Harvard Club the victory 9 games to 7.

The second round of the playoffs pitted the Harvard Club against Concord-Acton, and UBC looking for revenge at the Boston Racquet Club. Union Boat substituted in **John C. Smith** and **Archie McIntyre** for this match and both won 3-1 decisions over **Jack Dane** and **Digger Donahue**. **Barclay Douglas** beat **Bob Loring** for the second time, again 3-1, leaving the match in the hands of Captain **Jon E. Smith** and the indefatigable **Everett Shorey**. Everett won, but the two games won by Jon were enough to earn Union Boat Club a berth in the finals.

The Harvard Club's top two players had made big improvements in their games late in the season. It showed for this match, as **Dan Reagan** polished off **Shef Halsey** in three straight games, and **Len Miller** held on at the end to take **Jim Cronin** 15-14 in the fourth. **Sam Magruder** started fast, but couldn't hold off a determined **Wayne Hodges**, who won 3-1. Again, the final results would be decided in the fourth spot, where **Kevin Hollister** took on **Marc Cendron**, who needed only one game to tip the scales for the visitors. Kevin went out strong, winning two, but hit a wall in game 3. Marc won easily, then took the fourth, but ended up losing 15-13 in the fifth. Another 9-7 win for the Harvard Club!

The Harvard Club challenged the UBC in the finals, but fell short of a third straight upset. **Dan Reagan** and **Bob Loring** started the night, with Dan winning by one point in the fourth game. **John C. Smith** took the #3 match against **Sam Magruder** in three straight, although the handicapping produced some suspense in the final game.

Next up was **Len Miller**, nursing his strained hamstring, and **Chris Fox**, ready to run down everything, at #2. They split the first two games. At this point, Chris played really good squash, drawing some tough errors from Len who was still

(continued on page 13)

USSRA Update

by Kevin Klipstein, CEO, USSRA

Looking back at the 2005–2006 season, we've accomplished many of our goals. Primary among them was to improve the management of our US Championships. This past season we

- Hosted the largest ever Junior Open worldwide with nearly 500 players from 15 countries and overall handled entries, registration and scheduling for 2,500 players across over a dozen tournaments smoothly.
- Introduced feed-in consolations to the adult championships for the first time, providing more play than ever before.
- Opened the US Squash Hall of Fame at the adult championships and featured top matches, including the Women's final in front of a capacity crowd.

This season we also started providing the long-anticipated real-time ratings and rankings for adults, allowing every USSRA members to view their rating and the specific matches that contribute to the calculation. Members can also view their ranking at the local SRA level. In addition, we rolled out USSRA sanctioning of league play to incorporate league results into adult ratings and rankings. We launched our monthly e-newsletters with current information on US Squash and a partner deal with Hilton Hotels for member discounts.

For the 2006–2007 season, we will continue to add membership benefits, including the following:

- A participant/accident excess insurance policy up to \$25,000, which applies to accidents involving squash play during USSRA sanctioned tournaments or leagues. This coverage is in addition to primary medical insurance.
- National ratings and rankings viewable at the USSRA Member Club level as a tool for teaching pros to engage players of all abilities in the rankings.

In addition, we will hire a membership and communications staffer to work more closely with local SRAs and teaching pros to serve as a resource with the goal of increasing our membership base, which has been flat or declining for the last ten years. Our membership rates will rise modestly this season as we continue to add benefits and deliver on the value you expect from us.

I'd like to thank the MSRA for their support in all of our initiatives and for the very active involvement of its members. The Massachusetts SRA is an organization of firsts and leaders: the first female SRA president **Molly Downer**, now the first female USSRA board chair **Jeannie Blasberg**, the first urban squash and education program started by USSRA board member **Greg Zaff**, the forward-thinking leadership of **Tom Poor** as the chair of the USSRA Endowment Fund and the steady hand of **John Nimick** guiding the US Open, to name only a few individuals. Together we will continue to grow participation in squash at all levels thereby fulfilling the mission of the USSRA.



Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

(continued from page 11)

moving amazingly well, and took the third game decisively. At about this time, the Loring/Reagan match ended, and the #4 combatants took the field. Hard-hitting **Archie McIntyre** took on the improving, but still erratic, **Marc Cendron**, who started with a 5-point advantage. Not wanting to play from miles behind, Archie caught up fast and took the first two games, making it ever more likely that UBC would prevail overall. The third game went down to the wire, but a late burst was sufficient to put Archie and the UBC over the top 15-13.

Back to the #2 match, where the combatants were unaware of Archie McIntyre's heroics, Len fought gamely against the twinges in his leg and repeated lets, stretching out the proceedings. Chris led for most of the game, but in the end, Len pulled out a one-point victory to tie the match after four games. At this point, match in hand, the spectators asked for a reprieve from a fifth-game struggle, awarding the match to Chris. The League Championship plaque moves to Chestnut Street by a 4-1 score.

Summer Squash!!

Ladies and gentlemen, boy and girls, welcome to Summer Squash! The MSRA offers an opportunity for everyone to play another competitive season of fun squash.

Last year, 11 teams with more than 100 players entered the league and played every Wednesday night from mid-June until mid-August. The league consists of four-person teams using players of any age, gender or skill level. Competition is improved by use of a handicap system that changes by the game within your match. To find out the details, read up on it in the League Rules in the Yearbook or on the MSRA website.

Check with your Club pro soon to see if a team is forming at your club, or ask your teammates that stay active in the summer if they want to form a team. If not, email the League Commissioner, since stray players can be assigned to some of the smaller teams. Large teams are needed to accommodate the inevitable vacation travel schedules. And because every player is assigned a handicap to level the competition, team captains are encouraged to use all their players throughout the season.

Teams desiring to play in the league need to send in their entry forms (available on the web site) by June 5th. Play begins on Wednesday evening, June 21st. Additional players can be added after that, but they need to have a handicap assigned before they play their first match. As always, all summer league players must be members of the MSRA and the USSRA.

Sam Magruder, Summer League Commissioner
magruder@rcn.com

Morgan Stanley CreditSource®

We'll not only embrace your dream.
We'll help you finance it, too.

As a Morgan Stanley investor, you have access to a wealth of liability management opportunities:

- Fixed and adjustable-rate mortgage loans tailored to each investor
- Home equity loans and lines of credit to use for college education expenses, home remodeling, funding a wedding or consolidating debt

Morgan Stanley also offers access to cash management, financial planning, insurance services and retirement planning services exclusive to Morgan Stanley clients.

Call the number below for more information.

Jonathan P. Hyett
Financial Advisor
617-790-5242
jonathan.hyett@morganstanley.com

Morgan Stanley
One client at a time.

125 High Street, 24th Floor, Boston, MA 02110

Investments and services are offered through Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC.
Morgan Stanley and One Client At A Time are service marks of Morgan Stanley.

The Morgan Stanley CreditSource Program is offered through, and loans made by, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Credit Corporation. Morgan Stanley DW Inc., 2000 Westchester Ave., Purchase, NY 10577, is a registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Department, and acts only as a broker, not a lender.
© 2005 Morgan Stanley LSV-04 10/05

Rules & Refereeing Q&A

by Nat Lovell

Questions: A guy I play occasionally takes a circuitous route towards the back of the court before hitting the ball.

He seems to do this to make me move all over the place. It is NOT his most direct route to the ball.

He never calls a let on me, and I always get out of his way so he can play the ball. My questions are:

1. Do the Rules allow him to do this?
2. Can he call a let on me if I can't clear for his round-about route?
3. Can I call a let on him before he plays the ball if he doesn't move directly to the ball?
4. Can I call a let on him after he hits the ball if all of this excess movement prevents my getting to the ball for my shot?

Answers: To answer these questions in order:

1. Yes, he can take any route to the ball he wants. However, the only route that you MUST allow him freedom to take is the direct route.
2. No, he cannot have a let if his intentionally indirect route to the ball creates the interference. (An exception would occur if he got faked out and moved in the wrong direction at first, but recovered and would have been able to make a play on the ball but for your being in the way...then he would get a let.)
3. No, you can't call a let on him for moving indirectly to the ball. See answer to #1.
4. Yes, after he hits his shot, he must give you unobstructed direct access to the ball. If he interferes, you get a let.

MSRANews Spring 2006

The MSRANews is published three times per year.

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

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

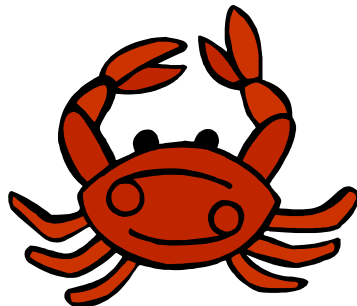
CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE: David Adams, Carl Cummings, Fran Donlan, Eric Godes, Simon Graham, Kevin Hollister, Nat Lovell, Sam Magruder, Libby McClintock, Suzi Melotti, Tom Poor, Dan Reagan, Bry Rosko, Lind Watts.

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

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

Join us in Baltimore on October 20-22 for the Howe Cup

The Howe Cup is an annual national women's squash tournament featuring regional five-person singles teams (A or 5.0-5.5, B or 4.0-4.5, C or 3.0-3.5 divisions) and two-person doubles teams. This year, the Howe Cup takes place at the Meadow Mill Athletic Club in Baltimore the week-end of October 20-22, 2006.



Last year, Boston was represented by five teams who played in Philadelphia and reached second place in the three divisions.

The ladder will begin play in August, so if you are interested in playing and/or captaining a team, please contact Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, MSRA Women's Tournament Coordinator, d.farinaux@comcast.net, as soon as possible.

For more information about:

Last year's Howe Cup: <http://www.ma-squash.org/howecup/article.asp?key=16>

Next year's Howe Cup: <http://howecup.com>

National Championships

The following MSRA members were winners or finalists in their respective divisions in the USSRA nationals and other major tournaments.

30+ Winner: Daniel Sharplin

70+ Winner: Phil Clapp (hardball)

75+ Winner: Lee Engler

Women's 35+ Winner: Wendy Ansdell

Women's 45+ Finalist: Susan Lawrence

Open 3.0 Winner: Andrew Fullham

Open 4.5 Winner: Jeffrey Carter

Women's 5.0 Finalist: Shona Kerr

Women's 3.5 Winner: Kara Kardon

Doubles

Canadian 60+ Finalists: Tom Poor / Lenny Bernheimer

U.S. 60+ Winners: Tom Poor / Lenny Bernheimer

Worlds 50+ Finalists: Malcolm Davidson / Stan Dorney (Baltimore)

Worlds 60+ Finalists: Tom Poor / Lenny Bernheimer

MSRA Executive Board 2006-2007

The following slate for the MSRA Executive Board for the 2006-2007 season was presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by the membership at the May 8, 2005 annual meeting of the MSRA at the University Club.

President: Eric Godes

Vice President: Wendy Ansdell

Treasurer: Sam Magruder

Secretary: Erik Kirby

Past President: Carl Cummings

Men's League Coordinator: Dave Adams

Women's League Coordinator: Bry Rosko

Men's Tournament Coordinator: Dave Adams

Women's Tournament Coordinator: Dominique
Farinaux-Dumas

At Large - Rules and Referees: Nat Lovell

At Large - Investments/Finance/Junior Development:
Tom Poor

At Large - Investments/Finance: Lenny Bernheimer

At Large - Website: Paul Chastanet

At Large - Website: Merrill Martin

At Large - Newsletter: Sarah Lemaire

At Large - Yearbook: Simon Graham

At Large - Pro Liaison: Paul Ansdell

At Large - League Scheduling/Historical: Linda Watts



SquashBusters seventh-grader **Alicia Forde**, and her mentor **Sarah Lemaire**, won a t-shirt design contest sponsored by the Mass Mentoring Project. Their design was made onto t-shirts worn by about 700 Boston-area mentors and mentees at the Red Sox game on Thursday, May 25.