

# MSRA News



Massachusetts Squash Racquets Association Newsletter

## President's Letter

Although at times the last few months it's seemed more like spring than winter, the squash season is in full swing here in Massachusetts. Once again we have full leagues in every division, well-attended junior tournaments and an adult tournament season that is kicking in to high gear. If you've never played in a weekend tournament, I encourage you to give it a try. You'll meet some great people, experience fantastic competition and undoubtedly will improve your game. Check out the MSRA web site for a full listing of events. On that note, don't forget to sign up for the MSRA state tournaments starting soon. This is a free benefit available to all members and is a perfect format for those who can't devote a full weekend to our favorite pursuit. You must sign up on-line at the MSRA web site. More details are contained in this monthly newsletter.

By the time you read this letter, the MSRA's first-ever free squash clinics will have been conducted for players of all ability levels. Many thanks to SquashBusters for donating their facility, board member Dave Adams for organizing and board member/squash pro Paul Ansdell for his expert tutelage. Your feedback will dictate if we sponsor more of these events so please don't be shy about letting any MSRA board member know your thoughts. We're still looking for other valuable services to offer to members and all suggestions are welcome.

By far the most dominant reason people join the MSRA is to participate in league play. With that in mind, I was surprised to learn that through the first half of this year we've had 14% of league matches defaulted by players not showing up for their match. While this isn't the forum for public scolding, please remember how disappointing it was the last time you committed to playing a match and had your opponent cancel on you. There are normally other club members and players from ladders below your level who would welcome the opportunity to play. The MSRA would appreciate all efforts to field full teams for each match.

(Continued on page 2)

## U.S. Open: Beacham & Grinham Win at Harvard



(L-R) Kevin Klipstein (USSRA CEO), Satinder Bajwa (Harvard coach), David Palmer (runner-up), Vicky Botwright (runner-up), Natalie Grinham (winner), Lee Beachill (winner), John Nimick (Event Engine)

This year's US Open featured exciting squash, a new location (Harvard's Murr Center), a women's pro draw, a brand-new show court, celebrity watching (*The Boston Globe's* Bud Collins), and a junior tournament.

The finals evening started with an exciting women's final, where fifth-ranked Australian Natalie Grinham (her older sister Rachael has been ranked #1 in the WISPA rankings all year) was stretched by England's Vicky Botright. Neither player lost a game going into the final, and Botright put up a tough fight in the second and third games, but the 5'1" Grinham lived up to her number 1 seeding to win the most important title of her career, 9-7, 9-10, 9-3, 9-4, and improve her ranking from #5 to #4.

Lee Beachill ably defended the title he won last year. Beachill came into the tournament as the #3 seed behind Jonathon Power and David Palmer. Power retired in the fifth game of the quarters against Nick Matthew. Beachill snuck by Matthew in a long five-game match, and Palmer didn't lose a game until his 98-minute, five-game semifinal against Anthony Ricketts. The momentum in the final went back and forth, but eventually Beachill had more left in his tank, while Palmer disputed a few ref calls that went against him at the end of the match. Beachill won 11-7, 9-11, 8-11, 11-1, 11-8, earning him the distinction of being the first US Open winner to defend in 20 years.

Congratulations to the winners, the runners up, and all the fans who experienced the pleasure of world-class squash from close up!

# Junior Tournaments: Behind the Scenes

Most juniors and their parents have some idea of the work that precedes the registration before the first match. This article gives a brief glimpse into the work and time involved with setting up a tournament and a profile of the MSRA's junior tournament director.

Getting the date, obtaining sanction from the USSRA, reserving the court facility, posting the notice, preparing and posting the application are all preparatory tasks. They take time. Filled-out applications cascade in, sometimes well over 200. They have to be collated into the various age divisions. Rankings must be reviewed to accurately seed players and spread the draw fairly to avoid an overweight or underweight of one side of the draw or the other. This task alone takes many, many hours, reviewing the draws to make sure there's good balance. Once the draws are established, court times and courts must be assigned, tight enough to not have a court sit vacant, and yet enough time for a match that probably might go longer than another. Where the winner of a match must referee the next match on the same court, it's important that the referee has sufficient knowledge and maturity to properly ref and also stand up to challenges of a call by the players. These are all very important elements, and if not done with painstaking care, things could become unraveled during the tournament. HAD ENOUGH? Oh well, we've just started.

The more mundane, but necessary work must be done. Supplies, easels, tables, chairs, food for the players and guests, prizes, score sheets, clip boards, and a medical kit must all be brought to the site. Oh, yeah, pencils, too. Almost forgot!

The day the tournament opens, the volunteers show up. Registration begins, and volunteers are assigned first match refereeing, since there are no winners yet. The floor manager begins to coordinate court assignments. Walky-talkies provide the coordination between the courts and the desk. "Where is the ref for court 6? The players are ready." "Court 10 is running over. Can we switch its next match to court seven?" Players and families see the work that goes into running a tournament once it starts, but be assured that there is a lot of preplanning to avoid as many problems as possible and to remedy those that inevitably occur.

What's above sets out in very short outline the tasks and responsibility of a tournament director. Anyone—be it a squash pro, squash club owner, or parent of a junior player—who assumes this labor is to be admired and thanked for his or her effort. And you can see the motivation that explains why such a person would rise to this occasion.

But there is one tournament director who has none of these obvious motivations. So, why does he do it?

Tom Poor has played squash for 40+ years, has won many titles over the years, and he and his doubles partner, Lenny Bernheimer are presently ranked #1 in the country in their division. Tom enjoys a great reputation and has many longstanding friendships in the squash community. You can see the effect during any tournament Tom runs. He need only ask once, and sometimes not at all, for a friend to help out. Lenny flew up at his own expense from the warm climate to "manage the floor" for Tom at the most recent tournament. After the last match, everybody had left, but there's still work to be done. Tom himself put the tables away, carried the easels and supplies to his car, stacked the chairs, checked the courts area for any last cleanup. Finally, he left for home. Done? Not quite. Tom had to post the results on Railstation, and he took the time to email a parent to ask about the condition of a player who had injured himself.



Lenny Bernheimer (l) and Tom Poor (r)

I did finally ask him why he took on the labors of tournament director. I knew why, but I wanted to hear him tell me. Well, I got a vague, ambiguous, muffled response and the subject quickly changed. So, I'll have to tell you myself. Tom, and there are some others like him, wants to help assure that junior squash will be strong and grow. It's a sport that has given so much to him, that he wants juniors to have the opportunity to enjoy it as much as he did and still does. And, it makes him feel good. Some day, we may be able to pry it out of him.

In any event, we're fortunate to have him running the MSRA Junior Committee. Thanks, Tom. —Regards, Anonymous

## President's Letter (continued from page 1)

Have you noticed that once you do play a league match your squash rating is updated live when it's entered in to our web site? Keep track of how you and your squash-playing friends are progressing as the season moves along. Before the end of the season, all MA results will also be submitted to the USSRA allowing for each of us to have a national rating. Keep playing well to maintain those bragging rights over friends and relatives living in other states.

Although it's a bit in advance, mark your calendars for the state singles tournaments finals night on April 6th and the state hardball doubles tournament and MSRA annual meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, both held this year at the University Club. The MSRA will be rolling out the welcome mat and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Best of luck the second half of the season!

—Eric Godes, MSRA President  
egodes@comcast.net

# 2005 Howe Cup: Philly Sweeps at Home

by Margo Grossberg, Boston B Howe Cup chair

The 2005 Howe Cup Tournament in Philadelphia (October 28–30) matched last year's tournament in NYC with 140 participants. This Howe Cup was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tournament that once consisted of only a handful of teams from Boston, Philadelphia and New York. Fifty years later, 28 teams came to play, one from as far away as Alaska! What is it about this event that makes women want to travel across the country to play squash for the weekend? Maybe it's the team format, five women competing for their city. Or, it could be the social aspect of the tournament. This event has a reputation; it's not just about the squash. 'Play hard on the courts, play hard off the courts' seems to be the motto for everyone who participates.

This 2005 Howe Cup event was seamlessly organized, with all of the singles matches being held at the University of Pennsylvania squash courts. Organizing a tournament like this is not an easy undertaking. Jack Wyant and the volunteers on the UPENN squash team made it look simple. The players and the spectators were made to feel right at home.

Last year, Boston's A team defeated Philadelphia in NYC. This year, Philadelphia set out to keep the cup at home, while at the same time serving as gracious hosts to everyone who made the trip. Not only was Philadelphia a gracious host, they proved indomitable on the courts. After the A team lost to Boston in New York last year, they set out to claim the cup at home. Congratulations go to Philly. They won the Howe Cup. . . in all three divisions.

Boston has nothing to be ashamed of. Five teams—that's 25 women—all made the trip to Ben Franklin's stomping grounds. Boston sent a polished A Team: Hope Prockop, Shona Kerr, Pam Saunders, Jeannie Blasberg and Lauren Holleran. Boston sent two B teams: Neely Steinberg, Liz Steffey, Rickie Silbersher, Pam Larson, and Becky Belcher made up the B1 team, and Meredith Johnson, Kara Kardon, Bry Roskoz, Margo Grossberg, and Liz Lambert played on the B2 team. The two C teams were Kerry Wellington, Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Beth Collins, Maria Mayorga, and Elaine Apostolides for C1, and Becky Lingard, Bernadette Dixon, Suzi Melotti, Melissa London, and Debbie Harrison for C2.

While it's true that Philly took the Cup, all five Boston teams made it to the playoff rounds on Sunday. Boston can also be proud to have reached the finals in every division. Boston's squash community is strong and close. This entire 2005 team showed up early or stuck around after their matches finished to cheer for their Boston teammates and to coach Boston players in other divisions.

The A team found themselves in the finals against Philadelphia 1 after beating them 3-2 on Saturday. Hope, Pam, and Shona defeated their opponents 3-0, 3-0, and 3-2. Jeannie Blasberg and Lauren Holleran were defeated 0-3 and 1-3 respectively. Shona had the toughest match on Saturday against Amy Milinik. There were many long rallies, with each woman strategizing incredibly well and moving each other all over the court, up and back. In the end, Shona prevailed. In the number 5 spot, Lauren Holleran played Margaret Rux. Lauren played well, but Margaret covered the court tirelessly. With the score in the match tied at 1-1, Pam Saunders defeated Dawn Gray for a Boston victory at 3-0. Pam was well in control of the match. Boston went up 2-1 as Jeannie Blasberg in the number 4 position did battle with Logan Greer. As fit as Jeannie is, fighting for every point, Logan was too tough to beat, and Jeannie went down 3-0. 2 all and Hope played smart and crisp against Dani Davis for the match at 3-0. At the end of the day, it was Boston over Philly 3-2. But Philly is a formidable opponent, and nothing was taken for granted going into Sunday's final.

With a match that close, both teams knew that it could have gone the other way. On Sunday, things looked promising early when Lauren Holleran took a 2-0 lead in the match and was poised to show Margaret Rux that this match, on this day, belonged to Boston. But then, the momentum shifted and Margaret came roaring back with the same grit and patience that she had shown on Saturday. In a disappointing blow, Lauren could not hold on and went down to Margaret 2-3.

On the court next door, Shona was having her own troubles. Amy clearly went home on Saturday determined to avenge her loss. She was tenacious and took the match from Shona 3-1. Pam, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> position on



Bry Roskoz, Meredith Johnson, and Jeannie Blasberg arrive at the Philadelphia airport prior to Howe Cup play.



Making friends with Ben Franklin on a break from Howe Cup play are (clockwise from left) Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Bernadette Dixon, Becky Lingard, and Suzi Melotti

# Howe Cup Results *(continued from page 3)*

the team, held strong and took Dawn Grey again at 3-0. Jeannie was unable to rally against her tough opponent and lost to Logan, 3-0. Hope was also disappointed on Sunday by a 1-3 loss to Dani. Philadelphia defeated Boston's best 4-1. The A rivalry between Boston and Philadelphia carries on for another year.

Boston sent two B teams and captain Margo Grossberg (this writer), made the risky decision to stagger the lineup rather than put the absolute top 5 on the first team. The B team has such depth that Grossberg was comfortable with the gamble, and it almost paid off. Like their teammates in the A division, Boston B1 faced Philly on Saturday, had some nailbiters of their own, and came out ahead 3-2. Terrific squash was played, with two especially close matches. Pam Larson was defeated by Ann Hatfield in a dramatic match that was decided by an 8-10 tie breaker in the 5<sup>th</sup>. That tied the teams at 2-2, setting things up for Neely and Julie to decide the victors. Both women gave it everything they had, and in the end Neely pulled it out 10-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Boston A team members Pam Saunders (Mt. Holyoke coach), Jeannie Blasberg (USSRA treasurer), and Shona Kerr (Wesleyan coach) pose with Tim Bacon (Smith coach) after a match at the 2005 Howe Cup**

By the (un)luck of the draw, Boston B1 and Boston B2 were set up to meet in the semi-finals on Sunday. All the women on either B team must now know how the Williams sisters feel when they play each other in a tennis tournament. Both teams had hoped to meet in the finals on Sunday, clinching the Cup for Boston one way or the other. Things, however, did not quite work out that way, and now they were confronted with one ousting the other for a chance at the Cup.

For those who don't know, the order of matches is the same for the entire tournament with the #5 and #2 positions playing first and #s 3, 4, 1, playing in that order as the courts become available. Becky Belcher in the #5 position for Boston 1 was defeated by Liz Lambert. Playing #2 for Boston 1 was Liz Steffey, who took Kara Kardon. At #3 for B1 was Rickie Silber, who lost to Bry Roskov. Pam Larson played #4 for B1 and Margo Grossberg. With both teams tied at 2, the match came down to the #1 spot played by Neely Steinberg for B1 and Meredith Johnson for B2.

The gallery was full, sensing the pending drama. B1 was clearly pulling for Neely and B2 for Meredith. The rest of the spectators opted for neutrality and simply cheered, "Go Boston!" Nothing wrong with a little friendly tension. Boston B1 and B2 both wanted to continue to the next round, and one of them would be stopped. Both players were feeling the pressure. To say it was a hard-fought match might be an understatement. Emotions ran high, with plenty of let calls both ways. Ultimately, the match went to Neely 3-1. Boston 2 was out of it and would have to be content to watch the finals. Handshakes and good wishes were offered all around; of course, Boston B2 rooted enthusiastically for Boston B1 to win the tournament.

Given the previous match between Boston B1 and Philly, everyone knew that the final on Sunday was not going to be a cakewalk. As it happened on Saturday, Liz Steffey defeated Tracy Greer 3-1. Pam Larson was well in control this time against Ann Hatfield and won 3-0. Rickie and Becky were unable to overcome their opponents, Heather Unway and Julie Corelli, both matches went 0-3. Again, the final was to be decided by the #1 position. Another well-played match but this time, Julie prevailed 3-1 against Neely and took the Cup for Philly. Close. So close. Hats off to the B1 team.



**Boston's B2 Team (L-R): Margo Grossberg, Bry Roskov, Liz Lambert, Kara Kardon, Meredith Johnson**

The women in the C division can also be proud of their squash this weekend. C2 ended in a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> place. C1, here we go again. The C1 team met, you guessed it, Philadelphia for another down-to-the-wire final. This time, the heartbreaker came in the #5 position when Elaine Apostolides lost to Charlotte Hicks in a fifth game tie-breaker. Dominique Farinaux-Dumas playing #2 lost to Kathy Hughes. With #5 and #2 down, Boston needed to win the remaining three to win the cup. At #3, Beth Collins defeated Cathy Popovitch 3-0. In the #4 position, Maria Mayorga defeated Mary Robins 3-0. Unfortunately for the C1 team, Kerry Wellington's opponent, Patti Sackman had the edge and beat Kerry 3-0. This match went to Philadelphia 3-2, but oh so close for our Boston team.

After finishing second in three close championships, Boston is more determined than ever to come out on top in 2006. In spite of the finish, the mood of the entire Boston squad going home was upbeat. There were a number of undefeated players that deserve special congratulations: Pam Saunders for the A team (Pam did not drop a game all weekend), Liz Steffey for the B1 team, Bry Roskov for the B2 team (Bry took every game too), Beth Collins and Maria Mayorga for C1 and Bernadette Dixon for C2.

Congratulations go out to all of Boston's 2005 Howe Cup participants!

# Men's and Women's 2006 Hardball Doubles Championships

March 6–May 8, 2006.

ENTRY DEADLINE: March 2.

DIVISIONS: A, B, C, 50+, 60+, Mixed, Women's

ENTRY FEE: Free to MSRA members. \$55 for non-MSRA members. Eligibility will be strictly enforced

SITES: University and Harvard Clubs.

DRAWS: Posted at University Club and on the MSRA web site.

BALL: Slazenger Blue Doubles (red dot).

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

Prime Time: 5:00 -7:00 PM. Mon. - Fri. No tournament matches during prime time unless courts are available. Courts close weekdays at 10 PM

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

Tournament Director: Tom Poor (781-826-2792) tpoor43@aol.com

REGISTER ONLINE: [http://www.ma-squash.org/hardball\\_doubles/application.asp](http://www.ma-squash.org/hardball_doubles/application.asp)

## MSRA Archives Project

*by Linda Watts, MSRA Board Member*

Massachusetts squash players may not realize that the MSRA has a long, storied history. In fact, the Massachusetts Squash Association was founded in 1902 with four member clubs. The MSRA was the first racquet sports league in the United States!

In 1904, the United States Squash Racquets Association (USSRA) was founded in Philadelphia, with a total of seven clubs in its fold. The USSRA was the first national squash association in the world. A few years later, during the 1907–1908 winter season, the MSA added “Racquets” to its name, thus becoming the MSRA, and became affiliated with the USSRA.

It's hard to believe that it has been over 100 years since our early beginnings as an organization. We would like to create an archives to preserve our history. This is a rather daunting project but to get it started, we would like to reach out to you, our membership, to see if you might have any items to donate to this project. It won't be long until spring cleaning, which is a perfect opportunity to find a home for that old trophy that has been collecting dust. Or perhaps you have some pictures, documents, or other mementos of squash interest.

Our first steps for the archives 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.

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# 75 Attend MIT 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Squash Athletic Program

Seventy-five individuals participated in the MIT 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of squash on November 12, 2005. An alumni squash tournament at the Zesiger Squash Courts with 34 participants was held during the day. A great time was held by all. The old truism, the older I get, the better I was, holds!

The highlight of the event was the commemoration at the dinner at the Hotel@MIT of two past distinguished MIT squash coaches—Jack Summer and Ed Crocker—through endowed funds in their names. Eventually these funds will be used for a full-time squash professional staff at MIT. The funds were pledged by some of the over 400 MIT squash team alumni, scattered around the world. Four sons of Jack Summers and their spouses were in attendance: Bill (former Princeton squash and tennis coach, former Tufts University squash and tennis coach), Dave, Charlie and Frank. Photos are available for Internet access at <http://mitathletics.collegesports.com/genrel/111805aaa.html>.

Throughout the past seventy-five years, the MIT Squash athletic program has a distinguished history, with three distinct coaching eras: Jack Summers (1930–1956), Ed Crocker (1956–1982), and the modern era with a number of coaches. MIT will be celebrating its 75th anniversary of its squash athletic program, recognizing and honoring in particular these two coaches who had a significant impact on the MIT squash program.

**Jack Summers** became the first MIT squash coach in 1930. At the same time, he was a dominant US squash professional player, winning the US Pro Squash Championships: 1930, 1931, 1932, 1934, and was a finalist in 1933. In 1938, he won the Metropolitan Open, the MSRA championship tournament, at age 45. In 1941 Jim Mar played for MIT, and went on to win many subsequent squash tournament championships. In 1945–1946, MIT, under Summers, came in second at the Nationals, due in part to large numbers of GI bill student-athletes (e.g., Roger Sonnabend [President Hotel Corp of America] and William Pierce). In 1946, the Squash Nationals were held at MIT for the first time, with Sonnabend and Pierce reaching the semis. MIT beat both Harvard 5-0 and Dartmouth 5-0, then split with Yale, and lost 1946 National championship to Army 3-2.

**Ed Crocker** was MIT squash coach starting in 1956. One highlight was the 1967–1968 team placing fifth in Nationals, and beating Princeton along the way. This team formed the nucleus of players that dominated the Massachusetts State Racquets Association league, with the 1969 A team winning the team championship and continuing to dominate play through the 1970s, culminating in another 1981 MIT A team league championship win.

Since 1982, MIT squash has seen three players make All-American (Alec Litowitz '89, Matt Trevithick '92, Irfan Chaudhary '93); in 1995 and 1996, Ali Merchant won the Massachusetts State Championship, and in 2002, the MIT A team won the MSRA league championship. The anniversary will honor the past and build for the future. The MIT Zesiger Athletic Center, completed in 2002, has six superb international courts (<http://web.mit.edu/evolving/projects/zesiger/images.html>); it will host a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary squash tournament for current students and alumnae/alumni, as well as luncheon, reception, and recognition banquet for Jack Summer (many of his sons will be present) and for Ed Crocker. This event starts fundraising for a funded coaching position at MIT: the coach will work with the admissions office to recruit attract qualified students who can play squash, create opportunities to develop players from the MIT community—through PE classes, tournaments, lessons, and workshops—increase skills of players on the team through advanced training, and create enthusiasm for the sport within the MIT community and beyond. For more information, go to <http://mitathletics.collegesports.com/traditions/mit-traditions.html>.

Mass Junior Open Photos below and on page 8.



MJO GU19 Finalists: Winner Alia Aziz (l) and Finalist Ali Zindman (r)



MJO GU13 Finalists: Finalist Torey Lee (l) and Winner Kate Calihan (r)

# Mass Junior Open January 6–8, 2006

There were 182 entrants, and over 300 matches played. The draws in each division were quite well done—no one reached the finals without passing through a strong gauntlet of opposition. This year, many SquashBusters players, an ever-improving club of players, finished higher in most of the draws.

**GU19:** Alexandra Zindman stopped Helen Woolworth(2) in the semis, but bowed to Alia Aziz(1) in the finals. Woolworth finished 3rd, Krissy Rubin 4th. Samantha Smith won the Consolation; Emma Tall won the Plate.

**GU17:** Twenty-seven players entered this draw. Cece Cortes(1) and Natasha Kingshott(2) met in the finals. There were long tiring rallies—each point was yielded reluctantly. Cortes won game one. Games two and three were like the first, each opponent patiently waiting for a kill shot. Kingshott won both. Game four opened like the preceding three. Cortes avoided loose shots and prevailed. Game five went into overdrive, the pace faster, the rallies longer. The game was in contention until the very end, Kingshott winning, 9-7. Long and loud applause of appreciation greeted both women as they exited. Samantha Buechner(3) finished 3rd, and Rhetta Nadas(4) 4th. Lauren Gesswein won the Consolation and Eliana Saltzman the Plate.

**GU15:** This was a strong draw of 30 entrants; the top four seeds made it to the semis. Sarah Loucks(1) beat Courtney Jones(4) in four, one of which was a rigorous 10-8 game. The match to watch in this division was the semi between Julianne Chu(3) and Dori Rahbar(2). It was the closest match in the tournament. Rahbar won game one; Chu won game two. Game three went back and forth until the score reached 8-8. Each player was determined to win and go up 2-1. It went to 9-9. The rally lasted several minutes; Chu hit a winner and prevailed. Although Chu was up 2-1 in games as they started game four, the match seemed up for grabs, and so it was, for Rahbar took game four, 9-6. Neither young woman appeared tired, the reward of endurance training and conditioning. Game five reached 8-8. Again, set two was called and the score tied at 9-9, the match ultimately to be determined by one point. Chu, after a long rally, hit a winning shot. Chu after some rest faced Loucks in the finals and lost in three. Rahbar finished 3rd, defeating Courtney Jones(4) in four. Corey Schafer won the Consolation and Nyehsa Hannah Wornum won the Plate.

**GU13:** Kate Calihan(1) easily dispatched her opponents on her way to the finals. Yuleissy Ramirez(2), however, met unseeded Torey Lee in the semis. After winning the first game handily, Lee lost games two and three; Ramirez seized the momentum and seemed unstoppable. The impediment was Lee, who came back to win games four and five to face Calihan in the finals. Even with a night's rest, Lee fell to Calihan's relentless attack, 3-0. Ashley Dona won 3rd and Ramirez 4th. Jennifer Huynh won the Consolation and Jessica Sanon won the Plate.

**BU19:** This draw was comprised of a talented, geographically diverse dozen. Will Hartigan(1) came well prepared and cruised to win the finals. His opponents were worthy, but Hartigan played flawlessly. On the other side of the draw, Matthew Candal(2) met David Funk, who took Candal to four games before yielding. Candal was the finalist. Christopher Vernick finished 3rd and Funk 4th. Rees Sweeney-Taylor won the Consolation, and Sharyar Aziz won the Plate. Aziz and his twin sister, Alia (GU19) will enter Yale this fall. Good luck to both.

**BU17:** Thirty-eight young men entered, several of who could win this draw on any given day. Matches tightened up in the quarters; each went to four games. The semis proved tougher. Will Sullivan(1) won a five-game match against his school teammate, Andy Bernard(4). They had played each other many times, and it was a seesaw battle. Unseeded William Mor-

ris won the other semi; Harry Smith(2) yielded after five close games. Morris won the finals over Sullivan. Smith finished 3rd and Bernard 4th. The last match of the tournament was a five-game masterpiece between Amory Bennett and Charles Gertler in the consolation finals. Not many balls made it to the back wall as volley followed volley, each trying to catch his opponent wrong footed. Drop shots, lobs, tight low rails, wide cross courts; it was a tutorial. The fifth game ended 10-8, Bennett. Earl Smith III won the Plate.

**BU15:** There were 31 players. Juan Marcos Flores(1), the finals winner, dispatched all his opponents in three. The other side of the draw was dominated by the young, diminutive wonder Peter Dylan Murray(2), until he met Alexander Greaves-Tunnell(3) in the semis. It took Murray five games to beat Greaves-Tunnell. With just over three hours rest, Murray faced and lost to Flores in three in the finals. Liam McClintock finished 3rd and Greaves-Tunnell 4th. Mark Funk won the consolation, and Sam Cheney won the Plate.

**BU13:** Nicholas Greaves-Tunnell(1) faced stiff opposition only in the semis; it took five games to defeat unseeded Hayden Dunham. Pehlaaj Bajwa(2) gave up only nine points in his three matches to reach the finals. Bajwa lost game one, but as the second game began, he seemed calm and focused. He proceeded to win the next three games, despite Greaves-Tunnell's valiant efforts. Bajwa was the finals winner and Greaves-Tunnell the runner-up. Dunham finished 3rd, and Shakeele Scott 4th. Mario Payne won the consolation, and John Boyle won the plate.

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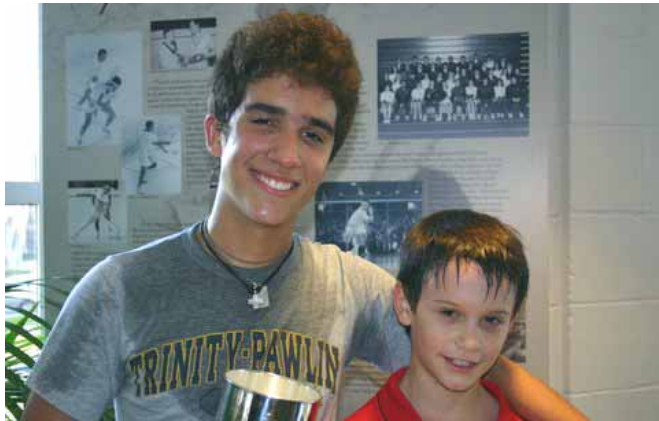
# Mass and New England Junior Open Photos



MJO BU13: Winner Pehlaaj Bajwa (l), Finalist Nick Greaves-Tunnell (r)



MJO BU19: Winner Will Hartigan (l), Finalist Matt Candal (r)



MJO BU15: Winner Juan Marcos Flores (l), Finalist Peter Dylan Murray



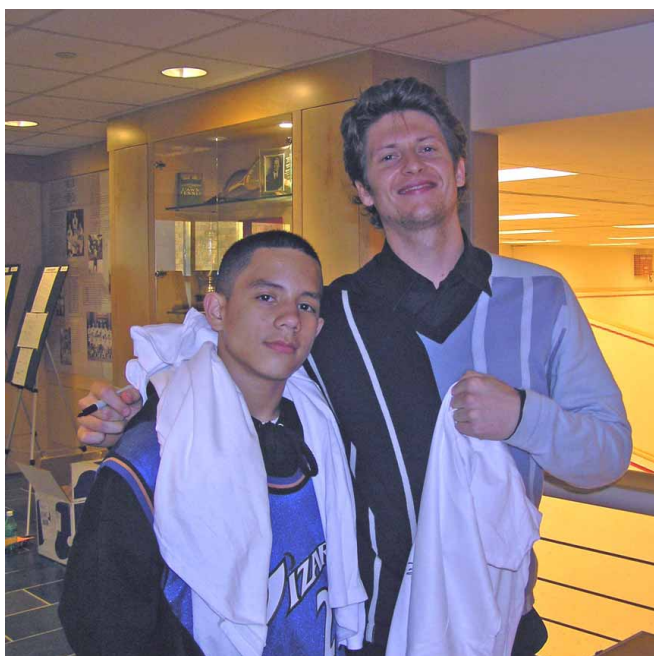
MJO GU15: Winner Sarah Loucks (l), Finalist Julianne Chu (r)



MJO BU17: Winner William Morris (l) and Finalist Will Sullivan (r)



MJO GU17: Winner Natasha Kingshott (l) and Finalist Cece Cortes (r)



SquashBusters' Luis Peguero and PSA pro Jonathon Power bond over autographed t-shirts at the New England Junior Open at the Murr Center during the US Open pro tournament.



# New England Junior Open: November 4 – 6, 2005

For the very first time ever, there was combined WISPA, PSA and New England Junior Open tournaments. It all occurred at Harvard University's Murr Center. It was a bold move to host so many activities with so many participants, families and spectators expected. Not only did it prove to be workable, but each complimented the other. The grand result was achieved by a lot of preplanning and coordination among the three groups involved—Harvard's staff, John Nimmick and his staff, and Tom Poor and his committee.

Harvard created a glass court in its regular squash facility for many of the pro matches, thus enabling juniors and their parents to watch the pros play when their attention was not taken by the junior tournament. Even more exciting, Harvard allowed the construction of another glass court on its adjoining tennis courts, for the quarterfinals through the finals of the US Open pro matches. Junior participants were allowed to attend the pro matches as part of their tournament fee.

Kicking off the events was the traditional Junior Jam on Thursday. Juniors of all skill levels, from highly nationally ranked U19 juniors to younger newcomers, got a chance to play with the men and women who are internationally ranked pros.

The combined events were such a success, we hope they will continue together in the future years

The New England Junior Open had 192 entrants. There were 393 matches played in two days. The schedule was tight, but with good court management, there were very few delays. There were a number of players from England, San Salvador, Manitoba, and several states beyond New England.

**GU19:** In the round robin played by the six entrants, the winner Alia Aziz did not lose a game. Helen Woolworth, finalist, won four and lost one. Krissy Rubin paced third.

**GU17:** In this draw of 17, Olivia Blatchford (1) and Hannah Conant (2) met in the finals, each having dispatched her opponents without a great deal of difficulty. Theirs was one of the highlight matches of the tournament. From the outset it was obvious that each had come well prepared physically and mentally. In the first game, each tested the other hitting tight rails with good pace and hard, low crosscourts. There were a number of handouts, until Conant pulled ahead to win the first game, 9-3. The second game proceeded much along the same lines as the first, and Conant won, 9-3. Facing elimination, Blatchford pushed back hard, winning games three and four, 9-6 and 9-5. The contest now came down to one final game. Both young women were evenly matched. Their stamina and focus seemed apparent, and each fought to take command. Slowly but surely, Blatchford broke through, and after having been down in games 2-love, won the fifth game, 9-3, making Blatchford the winner, and Conant the finalist. Samantha Buechner (3) placed 3rd, and Alden Irwin took 4th. Pia Trikha won the Consolation, and Ken-Maxia Joseph won the Plate.

**GU15:** Thirty-four young ladies entered this draw. Annabelle Collins-Ballands, from England, new to these shores and unseeded, won her way to the finals to face Dori Rahbar (2). Each had difficult, long, strongly contested matches in the quarters. The question remained who had the reserve to continue. Collins-Ballands struggled valiantly, but Rahbar dominated and won in three. Sarah Loucks (1) placed 3rd over Alexandra Sawin (3) who finished 4th. Eliza Calihan won the Consolation, and Andrea Tran won the Plate.

**GU13:** Of the 19 contestants, it was quite clear that Megan Murray (1), sister of Peter Dylan BU15, would reach the finals. Only in her semi-final match did Rachel Leizman (2) face stiff competition, winning in four. Murray, the winner, dispatched Leizman, the finalist, in three. Kate Calihan who lost her game in the quarters in five, won the Consolation. Jocelyn Arochio won the Plate.

**BU19:** Of the 14 entrants in this Draw, three were the top three varsity players for Belmont Hill, and they took 2nd, 3rd and 4th places, bested only by David Glass (1) of Manitoba. Mark Froot (2) was the finalist; Ryan Dowd (4) took 3rd in five games over teammate John Fulham (3), who finished 4th. Edward Casserly won the Consolation, and Andrew Macalaster won the Plate.

**BU17:** Thirty-three entrants entered. All the matches in the round of 32 were decided in three. Things began to heat up in the round of 16; four matches went to four games, and one stretched to five. Mike Maruca (1), the winner, beat Will Hartigan (2), the finalist. Will Sullivan (3) took 3rd over Milton Academy teammate, Andy Bernard. Charles Gertler won the Consolation, and Gray Huffard won the Plate.

**BU15:** Juan Flores (1) of San Salvador met little resistance as he made his way to the finals. There, he met the young phenom, ten-year-old, Peter Dylan Murray (2). Despite a height and reach disadvantage, Murray pushed the match to four games, but even so, the outcome never seemed in doubt. Flores was the winner, Murray was the finalist. Jason Michas (4) won the Consolation, and Rony Correia won the Plate.

**BU13:** Twenty-eight juniors entered this draw. Sam Conant (1), the winner, did not drop a game until the finals, when he beat Nicholas Greaves-Tunnell(3), the finalist, in four games. Christopher Wilkinson (2) finished 3rd, and Scott Chapin (4) finished 4th. Pehlaaj Bajwa won the Consolation, and Steven Vo won the Plate.

# MSRA League Reports

## Open 5.5

*Dave Adams, League Chair*

It's crunch time in the 5.5 league. The cream has risen; the wheat has bid farewell to the chaff. The league has segmented into three tiers. At the top, the mighty UClub I team. When this team puts its best foot forward, they are tough, with last year's state #2 Pat Malloy playing #2 behind rookie Nadeem Osman. Rounding out their top 4 is former state champ Doug Lifford and top 10 player Scott Poirier. Close on their heels is a very consistent CASC team. With a rejuvenated Paul Ansdell and Baltimore import Dave Bennet, they have played well at the top. Rounding out the team are fierce competitors Derek Moran, Dave Atkins and Mark Varney. CASC has taken advantage of the lower teams, but can they hang with the top teams in the playoffs? Time will tell.

The remaining top tier teams are the T&R and the UBC. T&R has been reeling from the loss of Mike Semprucci to the UK. Is his dedication to the league strong enough to bring him back over the pond for the playoffs? Even without him, Dan Sharplin, currently on a two-year undefeated streak, and rookie Paul Matheison are a formidable duo that could take any top two in the league. A battle of epic proportions looms on the horizon with the T&R and UClub I teams seemingly destined to meet in the playoffs. The UBC team has used all-time league wins leaders Phil Constable and Tyler Hindermann to support former US #2 Mark Lewis in the top slot. Throw in league newcomer Scott Kennedy and you have a dangerous team. Season-end match with CASC will be a big one.

Five teams occupy the middle ground: MIT, Boston Sports Club, Boston Racquet Club, Harvard Club and UClub II. The Harvard Club has been rejuvenated by former Harvard undergrad standout Mike Blumberg at #1. Add inspired play from the Brownell-Wilwerth duo, and you have a team that has pulled itself off the bottom of the league, where it languished for some years.

MIT has yet to field its best team for any one match. Can Irfan be the consistently stellar player he was before procreation? Will little concerns like "family" derail this potentially strong team?

BSC has been up and down, but with their deep lineup (Bill Kaplan / Mike Deforest at #4??), they are always a threat. BRC filled out their historically thin lineup and now fields a similarly deep team.

The UClub II team has been regularly losing matches on games or points without rookie Vishal Kapoor (come back Shane!). Inconsistent play from Adams and Hicks hasn't helped. They've got potential but will have to field their best team to make a charge.

SquashBusters has a team of newcomers, but with US junior team coach Chris Smith leading, they may be formidable in a year or two. With the addition of often-injured yet talented Parth Doshi, they could produce some late upsets. Sports Club LA has been short of players and despite strong play from

Ward, Rezagui and Singh, they remain a player or two away from contention. At the bottom is the Mo Squad who, despite strong play from Froot and Dowd (combined age 33...sigh), has had trouble fielding teams. Experience has been topping Youth on a consistent basis.

What will the playoffs hold? High-level squash. The quality at the top of the league is astounding. With Sharplin, Osman, Matheison and Malloy (early top 4 predictions) on just two teams, there will be some stunning squash. Will the depth of CASC and the UBC trump the talent at the top? Will any other teams make a Steelers-esque charge from the bottom? Come watch and find out!

## Open 4.5

*Dan Reagan, League Chair*

It has been an excellent Open 4.5 league season so far. There is generally good parity among the teams, and competitive/friendly matches and good sportsmanship have been the hallmark of this season. As of the time of this writing, two teams stand out at the top, and two have struggled for points; all others have shown that when fully staffed, they are capable of beating any.

Concord-Acton and Union Boat have established themselves as the teams to beat. Concord-Acton packs a 1-2-3 punch, which includes the former hardballer Will Bigelow, the classic playing, sharp-shooting Wendy Ansdell, and the solid Nick Nevin. CASC's lineup is further enhanced by converted racquetballer Justin Wolfe and stalwarts Erik Kirby and Dave Prockop. Evenly talented UBC may be just as good: scrappy, never-give-up Alex McFerran has yet to lose a match, and Bill Boardman is tough. Playing for a combined 13-1 record are the now-healed John Gates and the experienced/competitive Philip Laird. Add to that an ambidextrous Gordon Cromwell and top-level Hugh O'Donnell, and you can see why Concord-Acton cannot relax!

Beyond the top two, there is a scramble. MIT stands above the pack led by Adam Bushashia, a man of great gets and deceptive backhand. MIT has benefited by the play of Peter Lee and Clint Lawler, who have shown flashes of brilliance and potential, respectively, and by solid performances by Mahmood Khwaja and Duncan Ma. Maugus-One, last year's top team, struggled early this season but are now gelling, led by top individual contenders Eric Godes and Rich Schaefer, and regulars Bob Wagenaar and Adrian King.

Andover has its own 1-2-3 punch by way of Tariq Mohammed, Chris Beliveau, and the legendary Tim Wakeling! Tom Hodgson and Dan Wagman add strength to the mix. Evenly talented BRC is no slouch, led by newcomer Matt Dunn, and supported by scrappy Colin Sullivan, Zen Master-like Mike Lapham, wily Dan Reagan, and newcomer Ashley Robinson. After some early doldrums, the T&R team is moving up. Led by the youthful/energetic Dave Tedeschi, this team of Jeremy Wintersteen, Andrew Roberts, and Shawn Herlihy is sure to get

# MSRA League Reports

better. For the University Club, the season has been a maturing experience. Returning squash-master Gerry Kirschner leads the group, which includes the always-tough Ric Calvillo, exciting newcomers Tim Brennan and Crosby Haynes, and the sage Dan Hogan.

Maugus-Two and Harvard Club are interesting teams, and both like to entertain! Sporting the ever-crafty Mark Dickenson, hard-hitting David Heather, and veteran Doug Carr, M2 includes South Afrikaners, New Yorkers, Philadelphians, Englanders, and a New Englander. HC is also a melting pot – of the professional kind. This of course does not always translate into HC having their top 4 players available on any given night. Scrappy Jay Bradner leads HC, supported by a we-are-tough-when-we-all-show-up group of: Peter Manuelian, John Blasberg, and Feroze Mahmood.

BSC-Waltham and Sports Club LA have both faced challenges this year, partly due to player availability and roster challenges. Nevertheless, both are improving. BSC's Adrian Gill and Dan Zelman have played particularly well. For SCLA, newcomer Jeff Carter has shown he can play with the best in the league, and veteran Gary Orlacchio has added valuable points.

## Open 4.0

*Kevin Hollister, League Chair*

The 2005–2006 edition of the Open 4.0 league has been the most competitive since its inception three years ago. Having recently passed the mid-way point of the season, the battle for the six playoff spots is being hotly contested, with eight of the league's eleven teams having a shot at making it through to the postseason. The results of the final weeks of the season will sort out which teams will still be playing into the second week in March.

The University Club has maintained its position at the top of the standings all season and seems poised to finish there. The next four teams, the BRC, T&R, the Union Boat Club and Concord-Acton are in hot pursuit, with their positions in the standings changing weekly. The defending champion MIT team is currently in the sixth and final play-off spot but BSC Waltham is close behind, as is the Maugus Club, a team that rejoined the league this season. As the season comes down to its final weeks, head-to-head schedules, home court advantage and weather may tip the balance in any team's favor.

There have been many highlights on and off the courts this season. Among the notable ones:

- Squashbusters fielding its first 4.0 team: it may be a “building” year but we hope they'll be back.
- A three-POINT victory by the BRC at BSC Waltham in December.
- The application of “superglue” to patch up a player's face. Thankfully, all is well.
- The first match default due to parking problems.

- Very few defaulted matches (only three matches have not actually been at least partially played out of 220 scheduled). This is presumably a manifestation of the level of competitiveness of the entire league as well as a clear indication that the captains are doing a fantastic job in organizing their teams. Thank you all for that.

League play is not all about the competition, however. Reports have come in recounting tales of truly sociable behavior following intense on-court battles. Surprisingly, there is a strong correlation between these reports and the proximity of food and other refreshments to the host clubs. Research continues.

Thanks again to the team captains for keeping their teams engaged in the league. Best of luck to all of the players and teams as we approach the playoff season.

## Open 3.5

*Simon Graham, League Chair*

I'm approaching writing this half-time report on the Open 3.5 League with some trepidation this year—we're on strict orders from our whip-cracking editor to 'make it entertaining'; I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm an engineer and a software engineer to boot—expecting me to be entertaining reminds me of that old adage about the dancing bear—it's not how well he dances but the fact that he can dance at all!

Anyway, before I reduce you to tears of boredom by listing the current league table, I do want to take the opportunity to share a few numbers with you (sorry—can't resist!). So far this season;

- A total of 192 matches have been played compared with 160 last season.
- 93 different players have played for 12 teams as opposed to 82 players for 11 teams.
- Of those 93 players, 45 of you are new to the league this season; that's a whopping 48%. I'm extremely pleased to see so many players moving up from the 2.5 league and new players joining in the league.

On a slightly gloomier note, I've been concerned with the number of defaulted matches this season (32, 17% of the total matches)—whilst I understand how difficult it can be to find the time to play, everyone should also realize that the other teams' players have exactly the same time pressures and made the commitment to play. This is something that all involved—players, captains, club pros and MSRA board members—have to help with if we are to keep the leagues as vibrant as they have been.

At the end of the first half, then, the big news (maybe I'm a little biased) is that the Concord-Acton team is not having everything its own way this season; with the loss of three key players to the 4.0 league over the past two seasons, the continued strength of the BSC-Waltham team and the emergence of

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new blood at the T&R and UBC, the league positions are a lot closer than they have been in previous years and are:

Team	Points
1 BSC - Waltham	31
2 Tennis & Racquet	29
3 Union Boat Club	28
4 Concord Acton	26
4 University Club	26
6 Cambridge Racquet	24
7 Longfellow Club	20
8 Boston Racquet Club	17
9 Maugus Club	16
9 Sports Club/LA	16
11 BSC - Allston	3
12 Harvard Club	2

Lastly, in the individual ranking stakes, which includes those players who have played in 75% or more of their teams' matches and which is based on both wins and position played, the current standings are:

Ranking	Player
1	Simon Graham
2	Jeffrey Brown
3	Grant Godfrey
4	Ghary Gappelberg
5	Hans Sherman
6	Coalter Powers
7	Edward Johnson
8	James Schwartz

## Open 2.5

*Carl Cummings, League Chair*

Turning into the final third of the season, the wizened veterans of Andover Racquets sit comfortably but not unassailably atop the combination of other wizened veterans and callow youth that is the Open 2.5 League.

Near the other end, it appears that T&R will not threepeat (a term trademarked by Pat Riley and used here without permission). In between sit the other probable playoff teams but we anticipate a lot of jockeying for seeding positions right to the end.

There have been a number of close matches both individually and between teams. Among the more notable individual matches, LeCompte (NT&S) def. Palmer (BSC-W), (6), (10-8), 5, 10-8, 7; Coughlin (UBC) def. Sullivan (CASC), 7, 6, (10-9), (10-8), 10-8; and, in a special appearance, the man who put the (middle) M in FoMaMA, Frank Millet def. [illegible] (BRC), (15-14), 15-10, 15-13, (15-13), 17-16.

## 50+

*Sam Magruder, League Chair*

Concord-Acton leads the Senior Circuit at the half:

Team	Points
Concord-Acton	31
Boston Racquet	28
Union Boat	20
Harvard Club	14
Maugus Club	14
Milton	12

Despite being swept by BRC in week 3, Concord-Acton won all its other matches to lead the 50+ league by three points at the break. Their other competitive match was against Maugus, where the two captains duelled at the #4 position. Keith Munsell took a 3-2 decision over Steve Steinberg, but the two games for Steve were enough to secure the 9 games to 8 decision. Concord-Acton is led by Shef Halsey, who has defeated all comers at #1 except BRC's new ace, Barclay Douglas. His 3-0 record includes two victories against Shef. BRC is holding on tightly to second place, despite some up and down play, such as a 5-0 sweep of Concord-Acton, followed by a 4-1 loss the second time. Obviously, the captains are evaluating the matchups more closely, making adjustments and playing for subtle perceived advantages.

The Union Boat Club has a strong grip on third place, lead by the super-smooth, undefeated Bob Loring. Chris Fox has also had a quick start, losing only to Shef Halsey and recording a close 3-2 victory over Harvard's Dan Reagan. BRC's Jon and John Smith have played a lot of close matches, splitting them evenly.

The Harvard Club's captain Fraser Walsh has tried out some new players, including some barely-old-enough rookies, Jay Darby and Kelly Wilson. He is missing the tricky Tom Quinn, who is on sabbatical in Colorado. Their tied-for-fourth place standing was caused by losing sweeps to CASC and UBC.

Maugus is tied with Harvard in the standings and head-to-head, as they split their first two meetings, each by a 4-1 score. Larry Hargreaves has recorded the most wins for Maugus, followed by Rick Curtin and Keith Munsell. Martin Deale, stuck at #1 early in the year, ran into some tough competition. He is reported to have suffered a season-ending injury late in the year, and has been replaced by rookie Mark Dickenson. Despite being in the cellar, Captain Bob Bray has been coaching his team to take advantage of their lofty handicaps, taking two decisions from the Harvard Club among their four victories. Without the two 5-0 debacles against CASC, they would be right in the thick of things. Both David Freeman and Mike Spatola have shocked a few favored competitors.

There is certain to be a lot of game planning as the league rolls on to its March conclusion and everyone meets three times. We could even see an NFL-like result, with the sixth seed taking on the first seed for the Super Bowl!

## Women's 3.5

*Bry Roskoz, League Chair*

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The perennial favorites, the University Club and Concord-Acton, are again in a head-to-head battle for bragging rights in the women's 3.5/4.0 league. Both teams have amazing depth and field strong players at all four positions every week. The UClub's bench includes Liz Reynolds, Meredith Johnson, Emily Lubin Woods, Dianne Smith and captain Vera van Middlesworth. Concord-Acton's includes the "Fab Four" captain Kara Kardon, Tina Wu, Margo Grossberg, and Naomi Bradshaw.

At the season mid-point, the University Club team has inched ahead with 60% of its points won vs. Concord-Acton's 57.5%. But the standings go back and forth every week, depending on which team is getting lucky with nicks, so the battle is far from over.

On the flip side, the other three teams in the women's 3.5/4.0 league are in a heated race to avoid last place. Sports Club LA had a slow start due to match defaults, but when the 1-2 knock-out punch of Neely Steinberg and Merrill Muckerman are playing they're hard to beat and have pulled into third with 45% of points. Harvard Club's "Energizer Bunny" Pam Larson has kept the Harvard Club team in contention with 42.5% of points.

Never to be underestimated, the Boston Squash Team, led by fearless leader Lisa Evans, is still in the running with 37% of points.

We look forward to a photo finish to the women's 3.5/4.0 league, so stay tuned on the MSRA web site.

## Women's 2.5

*Sarah Lemaire, League Chair*

The Women's 2.5 league is once again one league, and everyone seems to like the variety of venues and opponents, despite the disparity in playing abilities. The T&R and University Club teams are almost entirely made up of new players to the league, which is great, but the team standings reflect their inexperience.

It's been a banner year for juniors in the W2.5 league, as they gain valuable competitive experience, while showing the grownups what excellent squash form is supposed to look like! These poised young women are balancing demanding academics and budding squash careers, while demonstrating unimpeachable sportswomanship on court. Welcome to Emma Fox, Corey Schafer, Paige Beaton, Courtney Jones, Louisa Harrison, and Dori Rahbar! (I hope I didn't miss anyone.)

There are a few faces playing in new uniforms this year. Kate Lowrie defected from Concord-Acton to captain the Harvard Club team after a multi-year hiatus. Laurie Manos left BSC-Waltham's team to join Concord-Acton, who, under the direction of new captain Coleen Phillimore, is currently in second place and vying for the title of "Best Parties." Anyone who knows Coleen should not bet against her in this endeavor! Peg Sestrich is undefeated in nine matches for CASC, Catherine Kniker has joined the team full-time, and Hilary Yates' ever-

improving game and smiling face is a welcome addition. Jennifer Moran is on maternity leave (a warning of what can come from fraternizing with the men's 5.5 players). CASC is putting together an excellent season and should finish comfortably in the top four.

Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, as always, has assembled a superb team playing under the banner of SquashBusters, with newcomers Kathryn Hall, Jill Murray, and Liz Young, and veterans Suzi Melotti, Kaley Klanica, and Melissa London. To play on this team, players must volunteer at SquashBusters during the year, so while they're terrorizing their opponents, they're spending quality time with an awesome group of youngsters. Dominique's SquashBusters team is almost sure to win a play-off berth.

The Maugus Club divided into two ostensibly equal teams, but me thinks Maugus Blue captain Becky Lingard might have been a bit too generous when dividing up the players. Maugus Green has been leading the league most of the season. Led by MG captain Ruth Chamberlin, Sabrina Davies is undefeated in 10 matches, and Lucy Bradley, Betsy Hargreaves, and Corey Schafer all have outstanding records. They're a favorite to secure the top spot for the season.

Maugus Blue, with Kerry Wellington, captain Becky Lingard, and Debbie Harrison all sporting winning records, should compete for the fourth playoff spot, probably with BSC-Waltham. (The end result might be a Maugus vs. Maugus match in the first round of the playoffs!)

BSC-Waltham's team includes many new players this year—welcome! Their #1 player, Jimena Velarde, has improved steadily all season. We'll see if the distractions of being newly married get in the way of her great squash skills! Ton Ton Russell and Susan Mygatt are ably captaining this team, with Debbie Carr playing the #2 spot most of the time.

Cambridge Racquet, who won the W2.5B league last year, is finding the competition tough, although captain Maria Mayorga has used her improved fitness and undefeated Howe Cup experience to win some tough matches.

The Harvard Club team has struggled this year, but are always fun to hang out with. They should benefit from the addition of Betsy Johnson and the steady play of Phoebe Slanetz. Special congratulations go to Eileen Murphy, a long-time league player, who notched her first win this year. As all who know Eileen will agree, it couldn't happen to a nicer person. The Harvard Club women may be spending too much time on their doubles games!

T&R and UClub have struggled this year, with player attendance and match wins, but Howe Cupper Beth Collins recently joined the UClub team, and Amanda Knappman has played six matches for T&R, who recently benefited from the addition of players Willa Rutherford and Megan Murphy.

Good luck to everyone for the rest of the season!

# Refereeing Q & A

by Wendy Ansdell, Concord-Acton squash pro

## Question:

Player B is preparing to play the ball near the T and player A is slow to clear creating obvious interference. Rather than stop and ask for a let immediately, player B glides to the backwall with the ball but gets a tough ball bounce off of the backwall, so he stops and asks for a 'Let' based on the earlier interference.

Player A claims player B chose to play through the interference and therefore does not now get a 'Let'. Who is right?

## Answer:

Player A is right. Player B chose to play through interference which no longer factors into the decision to be made. At the point when player B did ask for a 'Let' there was no interference, hence a 'No Let' decision.

## 2006 MSRA STATE SOFTBALL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 6, 2006

Hosted by the University Club

### DIVISIONS:

Open Skill Levels: 5.5, 4.5, 4.0, 3.5, 2.5  
Men's Age Groups: 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+  
Women's Skill Levels: 4.5+, 3.5, 2.5  
Women's Age Groups: 35+, 40+  
Softball Doubles Skill Levels: 5.5, 4.5, 3.5  
Age Groups: 50+, 60+; Men, Women, & Mixed.

### DATES:

- Women's 4.5+, 3.5, 2.5, are April 1 and 2 (starting at 9am) at Concord-Acton, through semifinals.
- Men's age groups and Open skill levels are self scheduling beginning February 10, through semifinals.
- Women's age groups are self scheduling beginning February 27, through semifinals
- Softball Doubles are self scheduling beginning March 6. Play at Concord-Acton or The Maugus Club thru semifinals.

### FINALS:

All singles finals are Thursday April 6, starting at 5:00 pm at The University Club.  
Softball doubles finals are Thursday April 13 at 6:30pm at Concord/Acton.

### ENTRY FEE:

Free to all current MSRA members. \$55 for non-MSRA members

### ENTRY DEADLINES:

Open Singles - February 1  
Men's Age Groups - February 1  
Women's Age Groups - February 20  
Women's Skill Level - March 26  
Doubles Softball - February 28

Skill Level entrants may not enter a division below, or more than one division above, their appropriate level. A player's appropriate level may be determined from league and tournament play and some players may have a skill rating posted at the USSRA's web site. If you are uncertain which level is appropriate for you, please consult with the coordinator for the division you wish to enter. Please submit a separate entry for each division you wish to enter.

**REGISTER ONLINE:** [http://www.ma-squash.org/tournaments/state\\_championships.asp](http://www.ma-squash.org/tournaments/state_championships.asp)

# Adult Tournament Results

## University Club Open December 2–4, 2005

### Open 2.5

Winner: Alli Rubin  
Consolation: Matt Emans

### Open 3.5

Winner: Ed Johnson  
Consolation: Ezra Whipple

### Open 5.5

Winner: David Bennett  
Consolation: Will Hartigan

### Doubles

Winners: Hailer/Brazilian  
Consolation: Kanwal/Voloshin

## Summers Cup Union Boat Club, December 2–4, 2005

### Open 4.5

Winner: Chris Choi  
Finalist: John Blasberg

### Men's 50+/60+

Winner: Sam Thayer  
Finalist: Barclay Douglas

## January Thaw Concord-Acton, January 13–15, 2006

### Open 5.5

Winner: Will Carlin  
Finalist: Paul Ansdell  
Consolation: Dave Atkins

### Open 5.0/4.5

Winner: Justin Wolfe  
Finalist: Wendy Ansdell  
Plate: Roger Jones

### Open 4.0

Winner: Chris Yates  
Finalist: Christophe Dupupet  
Plate: Steve Steinberg

### Open 3.5

Winner: Peter Jenkins  
Finalist: Chris Kovacs  
Consolation: Tina Wu  
Plate: Tim Morgan

### 55+:

Winner: Ned Monaghan  
Finalist: Bert Kornyei

### Women's 3.5:

Winner: Maura Neal  
Finalist: Courtney Jones  
Consolation: Lisa Evans

### Women's 2.5 (Round Robin):

Winner: Maria Mayorga  
Second Place: Mo Ramage

## SquashBusters Adult Open January 20–22, 2006

### Women's 2.5 (RR)

First: Rachel Luskin  
Second: Shifteh Fahr

### Women's 3.5 (RR)

First: Lisa Evans  
Second: Dominique Farinaux-Dumas

### Open 3.5

Winner: James Schwartz  
Finalist: Mason Dwinell  
Consolation Winner: Kyle Eberlin  
Consolation Finalist: Todd Hoagland  
Plate Winner: Thomas Brantley  
Plate Finalist: John Harkins

### Open 4.0-4.5

Winner: Matthew Buechner  
Finalist: Chris Choi  
Consolation Winner: Stephen Steinberg  
Consolation Finalist: Chris Reigeluth  
Plate Winner: Derek Aguirre  
Plate Finalist: Jonah Peppiatt

### Open 5.0

Winner: Peter Gemma  
Finalist: John Gillooly  
Consolation Winner: Jeffrey Carter, Jr.  
Consolation Finalist: Thomas McNulty  
Plate Winner: David Tedeschi  
Plate Finalist: John Wilson

### Open 5.5

Winner: Parth Doshi  
Finalist: Adam Achenbach  
Consolation Winner: Gregory Zaff  
Consolation Finalist: Shashank Mallick

## MSRANews

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