

# Mass Squash News



Massachusetts Squash Newsletter

## President's Letter

A momentous occasion is approaching! We will be celebrating the accomplishments of the league and tournament winners from last year while anticipating great things from our players beginning the fall 2008 season. The Massachusetts Squash Annual meeting has been scheduled for **October 27, 2008 at the University Club**. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend to support your fellow players and teammates as they receive their awards. Coincidentally, we need to have a quorum of members to elect the new Board for your Association for the next year. There will be very tasty hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar to attract the folks looking for a well-catered party on a Monday evening.

For those of you who read the email notices from our affiliate, US Squash, you may have noted that there are big changes in progress there. A complete systems conversion started in early August, including three modules which we use to serve our own members—membership, leagues and tournaments. Dan Reagan, who supervises all the Massachusetts league coordinators, has been heavily involved in providing system requirements, enhancements over the old system and testing of the user interface. With good foresight, US Squash actually hired the original developer of the league module to customize it for squash use, so we are reasonably confident that it will be working well by the time our leagues commence play in mid-October.

Take full advantage of your membership this year. Sign up and play in the Open leagues, the 50+ age group league and the Women's leagues. Check with your club professional soon to see which teams will be sponsored by your club. Watch the Massachusetts Squash website to see which tournaments are coming up that you can play. There will be a full schedule of both adult and junior tournaments in the area. All of these activities give you the opportunity to play people that you don't regularly compete with, test your skills against different styles of play and to meet very interesting people. We all know that the after-squash activities can be one of the best parts of our enjoyment of the game.

Happy Squashing,  
Sam Magruder  
President, Massachusetts

## 2008 Howe Cup: King of Prussia, PA November 7-9

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, D or 2.0-2.5 divisions) and two-person doubles teams.

Last year, Boston was represented by 13 teams who won the A and D divisions. If you are interested in playing and/or captaining a team, please contact Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, MA Squash Women's Tournament Coordinator, [d.farinaux@neu.edu](mailto:d.farinaux@neu.edu)

For more information about:

Last year's Howe Cup: <http://www.ma-squash.org/howecup/article.asp?key=20>

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



PRESENTED BY

*John Hancock*  
the future is yours

(For details, see page 3.)

# 2008–2009 MA Squash Leagues Signups now!

**Hello Greater Boston Area squash enthusiasts!**

**Signups for the 2008-2009 MA Squash Leagues are starting now!**

This is one of the major endeavors of MA Squash each year and one of the more popular programs with our members. We look forward to seeing many returning faces and teams this year... and hopefully some new ones too.

Below is some information about the leagues—especially if you are new to the leagues—and how to sign up for this year.

MA Squash leagues exist for skill levels, women and the 50+ age group. The leagues are coordinated by MA Squash for the benefit of its members, and each league is comprised of teams sponsored by squash clubs in the greater Boston area to play competitive matches against each other.

By playing in the leagues, MA Squash members get the chance to play competitive/friendly matches with your clubmates as a team, and to meet players from other clubs.

The typical arrangement is for a team to play one fixed night each week for 16–20 weeks, depending on the size of the league, with some weeks skipped for holidays/school vacations, etc. About half of a team's matches are "home" matches played at their sponsoring club, and the other matches are played "away" at the other teams' clubs.

This year we expect a number of teams to form and play in at least the following leagues: Open 5.5, 4.5, 4.0, 3.5, 2.5, Women's 3.5, 2.5, and Age Group 50+. Players can play in more than one league if they fit the criteria. As an example, a woman player could play in one of the women's leagues, the appropriate skill-level league, and the 50+ league, if she's old enough!

This has been a successful program for many years. Last year there were 67 teams and 546 league matches. There were 669 players listed on team rosters, so you can see this is a popular program. (Note: The actual number of league players was less due to some overlaps across leagues and as some players did not play matches.)

This year the season starts the week of October 20th, and with playoffs, will run until around March. Individual league calendars vary.

Team players need to be members in good standing in both MA Squash and US Squash (membership in one gets you membership in the other) and the sponsoring clubs need to be sanctioned US Squash clubs. Teams/players observe the official squash rules as well as the MA Squash league rules.

If you are a player who is interested in learning more and playing on a team, ask your Squash Club / Club Pro for more information. Note that the leagues are best suited for players who are committed to playing competitive squash, observe the official rules, and who are willing to play both "home" and "away" matches.

Sponsoring clubs and player captains are encouraged to field teams in the league. Go to [http://www.ma-squash.org](#) to download an informational letter and team application. Deadline for applying is 9/29.

Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions, or any trouble opening up the spreadsheet. We hope to see you in the upcoming season! For an electronic version of this article, with links, go to <http://www.ma-squash.org/article.asp?key=182>.



**Dan Reagan, Open Leagues Coordinator**  
**617-467-4670 (W) 617-429-1676 (Cell)**  
**Danreagan@aol.com**

**Bry Roskoz, Women's Leagues Coordinator**  
**978-983-3678 (W) 978-394-6430 (Cell)**  
**bry.roskoz@converse.com**

**Sam Magruder, 50+ League Coordinator**  
**617-964-6062 (H), 781-398-8683 (W)**  
**magruder@rcn.com**

# Can-Am Cup Doubles: October 24–26

## Presenting Sponsor: John Hancock Financial Services

The Can-Am Cup Doubles Championship will be contested in Boston over the weekend of October 24–26 at The University Club and The Harvard Club. This is a team tournament featuring the best doubles teams from Canada and the United States. A total of 104 players will participate in a Ryder Cup-like competition, 52 from each country. An exciting development for the tournament is that John Hancock Financial Services will be the Presenting Sponsor.

The format for the competition is quite interesting. The Can-Am Cup will feature two teams from each country in each of thirteen divisions: Men's Open/A, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, and 70+; Women's Open/A, 40+, 45+, and 50+; and Mixed. That all works out to 26 teams (52 players) from each country for a total of 104 players in the tournament. Team selection is based primarily on the final rankings of players following the 2007–2008 season. There will be three rounds of play, and points will be awarded for each match in each round. The first round will be the Lightning Round in which doubles teams will be randomly selected to play one game against their counterpart from the other country (each game worth ½ point.). In the second round, play in each division will pit the #1 team against the opposite #2 and the #2s vs. the #1s (each match worth 1 point.) The final round will have the #1s vs. #1s and the #2s vs. #2s (each match worth 1½ points.) It all works out to a possible total of 78 points, and the first country to accumulate 39½ points wins the cup.



Several Boston players will be representing the United States. On the men's side, Doug Lifford and Chris Spahr will be playing Mixed Doubles, while Sandy Tierney, Len Bernheimer, Tom Poor, and Hank Shaw will play in their respective age groups. As for the ladies, Jeannie Blasberg will be on the U.S. team. Mary McKee was scheduled to play for the U.S., but her recent move to Paris, France has made her somewhat geographically unable to perform. Of particular note is the (hoped-for) return to doubles competition of Tom Poor who underwent double partial knee replacement surgery last October.

# Massachusetts Squash Junior Committee

## A Preview of the 2008-2009 Season

The leaves are beginning to turn, signaling the beginning of squash season. Summer camps have given way to fall clinics, and the junior tournament schedule with more events this year than last will swing into full action in October. October also marks the beginning of many activities which have helped to build the Massachusetts Squash Junior Program to its current prominent standing in the US Squash junior ranks. Some of the details are below, but be sure to check the Juniors link on the Massachusetts Squash web site ([www.ma-squash.org](http://www.ma-squash.org)) for activities, updates, results and entry forms. Entry forms for junior tournaments will also be on the US Squash web site ([www.us-squash.org](http://www.us-squash.org)).

### Tournaments

This year's schedule is posted on both web sites. Locally sanctioned and other national or regional tournaments are scheduled on virtually every weekend from late September through April. The Mass Squash junior events below determine the players chosen for year-end Improvement and Sportsmanship awards and, as sanctioned events, count towards national rankings where our juniors have been well represented. The Junior Committee this season will run five major tournaments: the Deerfield Open (new to this year's schedule to be held in mid-November in their new squash center), the Dana Hall/Cross Courts Open in early December, the Mass Junior Open and the Frank Millet Championships (a US Squash Junior Championship Tour event) in January and the Massachusetts State Championships in early March. Home club professionals will run the University Club Silver (for players ranked nationally below #32) in December and the established Harvard Club Silver tournament in February.

### Rankings

Massachusetts Squash rankings for the past seven seasons are posted on the web site. The 2007-08 rankings are derived from the national rankings where four sanctioned events plus passage of the referees' test are required. More information on rankings is available on the US Squash web site. Virtually everyone who meets the requirements has a chance to be ranked, hence a national/local ranking is always within reach. We are very pleased that so many local juniors are nationally ranked. All tournament players are reminded that they must have passed the US Squash's Level D Club Referee examination to be eligible.

### Junior League

The **Junior League@Murr**, sponsored by the Junior Committee, holds six sessions of round robin squash for beginner to intermediate players. These sessions are held at Harvard University's Murr Center, on Sundays from 2:00PM to 3:30PM and from 3:30PM to 5:00PM depending on the player's level. This part of the League is a fun, but competitive afternoon of squash, preparing players for competition in US Squash sanctioned tournaments and school matches. All juniors are welcome and will be placed on teams by Azi Djazani, the League Co-ordinator.

The **Junior League@Dana Hall** begins its second season and is geared toward older, more advanced players. These sessions will be held at the Dana Hall School in Wellesley on Saturdays from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Match results will be available on the US Squash Ladder section, without affecting the players' official ranking.

More information is available on ([www.msrajuniors.org](http://www.msrajuniors.org)).

### Exhibitions and Clinics

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

### Web Site

The Juniors' link on the Massachusetts Squash web site will be the latest source of information on junior activities. The site features pictures, results from events, and articles. For more information, contact the Junior Committee [juniors@ma-squash.org](mailto:juniors@ma-squash.org).

### Newsletter

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

### Awards

The mission of the Junior Committee is to provide a means for young players to learn and enjoy the game of squash. For many the challenge of competition is provided in tournaments with rankings and trophies presented in various divisions. Equally, if not more important, is the recognition of Improvement and Sportsmanship with presentations at the Mass Squash annual meeting. The Junior Committee also honors a deserving girl and boy with a financial camp award to a summer squash camp.

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

**Massachusetts Squash Junior Committee: Sharon Bradey, Mike Loucks, Libby McClintock, Gary Rubin, Azi Djazani, Chris Spahr, Jim Sullivan, Lenny Bernheimer, Suzy Schwartz, Bill Nimmo, Rich Schafer, Hamid Benbrahim, Tom Poor, Chair**



# Meet the Mass Squash Junior #1s: 2007–2008

---



**Courtney Jones, GU17**



**Lillie Simourian, GU13**



**Timmy Brownell, BU11**



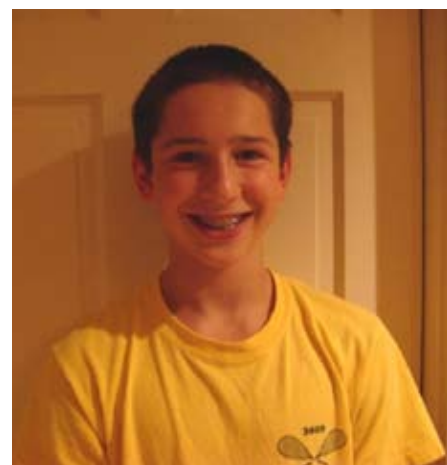
**Julian Kirby, BU17**



**Will Sullivan, BU19**



**Yulelissy Ramirez, GU15**



**Liam McClintock, BU15**



**Rhetta Nadas, GU19**



**James Fulham, BU13**

# BOWDOIN COLLEGE

INVITES YOU TO THE

## POLAR BEAR JUNIOR OPEN

OCTOBER 24-26, 2008

### BOYS & GIRLS

U11, U13, U15, U17, U19

GOLD & BRONZE LEVEL

ENTRY DEADLINE:

FRIDAY OCT. 17



- USSRA & MSRA SANCTIONED
- AT LEAST 3 MATCHES SCHEDULED PER PLAYER
- BOWDOIN'S LUBIN SQUASH CENTER FEATURES 7ASB COURTS

MORE INFORMATION AND ENTRIES AT [FORTSON-SQUASH.COM/PBEAROPEN.HTM](http://FORTSON-SQUASH.COM/PBEAROPEN.HTM) OR CONTACT BERNARDO FELICIANO: (207) 725-2940 — [PBEAROPEN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PBEAROPEN@GMAIL.COM)

### Polar Bear Junior Open Tournament Entry

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ USSRA# \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Division \_\_\_\_\_ Gold \_\_\_ Bronze \_\_\_ 1st match after \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival schedule and information \_\_\_\_\_

Ranking info (national, local or school) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BOWDOIN COLLEGE AND MAIL TO: Bernardo Feliciano, 12 Elm Street, Topsham, Maine 04086.**

Entry Fee \$60.00

Non-USSRA members (+\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

2nd division (+\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIVER:** I hereby release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue Bowdoin College, their respective administrators, directors, agents, coaches, and other employees or participants in the Polar Bear Junior Open, from demands, losses or damages on account of injury or damage to property, caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by my son/daughter's participation in or attendance at the Polar Bear Junior Open.

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_





# NUSEA Discovery Camp



Discovery Camp is a partnership between SquashBusters and the National Urban Squash and Education Association (NUSEA).

Discovery Camp 2008 united 28 students from five urban squash programs—SquashBusters, StreetSquash in Harlem, SquashSmarts in Philadelphia, and Squash Haven in New Haven.

The camp's goals were to promote friendship, provide top-notch squash instruction, and immerse kids in Boston's educational and cultural landscape. Every student received 15 hours of squash instruction, visited Wheelock, Simmons, and Emmanuel Colleges, went to the Franklin Park Zoo and Fenway Park, and enjoyed a Duck Tour.

True to form, SquashBusters, the first urban squash program, inaugurated Discovery Camp. Next year, several programs plan to host one week of Discovery Camp in their respective city.



# 2007–2008 Mass Squash Junior Rankings

<b>BU11</b>			<b>GU13</b>		
1	Brownell, Timmy	1	1	Simourian, Lillie	
2	Spahr, Carson	2	2	Chai, Samantha	
3	Gilbert-Bono, Blake	3	3	Brownell, Rebecca	
<b>BU13</b>			<b>GU15</b>		
1	Fulham, James	1	1	Ramirez, Yuleissy	
2	Krant, Benjamin	2	2	Cabot, Charlotte	
3	McBrian, William	3	3	Grant, Lily	
4	Spahr, Carson	4	4	Huynh, Jennifer	
5	Gilbert-Bono, Blake	5	5	Breitmeyer, Morgan	
6	Blasberg, Charlie				
7	Gladstone, Matthew				
<b>BU15</b>			<b>GU17</b>		
1	McClintock, Liam	1	1	Jones, Courtney	
2	Columbia, Edward	2	2	Cortes, Casey	
3	Quinn, Liam	3	3	Schafer, Corey	
4	Smith, CJ	4	4	Rahbar, Dori	
5	Blasberg, Jack	5	5	Crosky, Sarah	
6	Buffum, Derick	6	6	Siebert, Coco	
7	Hamlin, Edwin	7	7	Pacheco, Jesse	
8	Shleifer, Samuel	8	8	Loucks, Sarah	
9	Liftman, Harrison	9	9	Brooks, Ashley	
		10	10	Nimmo, Katherine	
		11	11	Kaemmer, Hannah	
		12	12	Hamlin, Margie	
		13	13	Coffin, Hannah	
<b>BU17</b>			<b>GU19</b>		
1	Kirby, Julian			Nadas, Rhetta	
2	Foehl, Taylor	1	1	Crosky, Sarah	
3	Sokolsky-Tifft, Samuel	2	2	Rubin, Alli	
4	Mullaney, Ryan	3	3	Neal, Maura	
5	Baker-White, Matthew	4	4	Sammis, Katie	
6	DeSantis, Scott	5	5	Brown, Carolyn	
7	Danyluk, Stephan	6	6	Kaemmer, Carolyn	
8	Chilvers, Derek	7	7	Shumway, Caroline	
9	Koekkoek, Toby	8	8	Saltzman, Eliana	
10	Mahmood, Eitezaz	9	9	Garrett, Ashley	
11	McClintock, Conor	10	10	Tran, Thuong	
12	Watkinson, William	11	11		
13	Soto, Darryl				
14	Peguero, Luis				
15	Alagna, Marco				
16	Breitmeyer, James				
<b>BU19</b>					
1	Sullivan, William				
2	Bennett, Amory				
3	Takesian, Barrett				
4	Fulham, Andrew				
5	Nimmo, John				
6	Smith, Earl				
7	Welty, Asa				
8	Galvao, Rodney				
9	Jalloh, Mahmud				



# Harvard Club Overtakes Boston Racquet for Summer League Title

Ten teams competed for the Summer League Squash title every Wednesday night from June 18 until August 13. This year featured a wide range of skill levels among the players, but the captains managed to arrange their rosters to produce many very competitive matches. 112 players participated over the nine-week schedule.

The Boston Racquet Club, led by **Rip Hastings**, **Girish Venkataramani** and **Mike Dougherty**, went undefeated for the first four weeks until the T&R used a very strong combination headed by **Dave Tedeschi** and beat them in Week 5. Three other teams were jockeying for the runner-up positions in the league during the early going, **Merrill Martin's** Cross Courts-Drops, **Marc Cendron's** Harvard Club and **Amanda Knappman's** Tennis & Racquet Club. The Solons of the Cambridge Racquet Club, captained by **Harold Helson**, came on strong at the end, winning their last three matches to tie for fourth place at the finish line. Harvard Club finished 18-2 in the last four weeks, including a sweep of the BRC to take the top ranking. The final standings demonstrate the competitiveness of the league from top to bottom:

Team	Points	% of points Won	
Harvard Club	35	77.8%	
Boston Racquet Club	33	73.3%	
Cross Courts-Drops	29	64.4%	
CAC-Solons of Squash	27	60.0%	
Tennis & Racquet Club	27	60.0%	
Cross Courts-Lobs	23	51.1%	
Squashbusters	14	31.1%	
Union Boat Club	14	31.1%	
CAC-Hedonists Too	13	28.9%	
BSC-Allston	9	20.0%	

Because of vacations, summer league teams always require more participants to ensure that they fill their roster each week. A few really dedicated players are around for most of the season. Winning the iron man award for this year is **Jeffrey DeSousa** of SquashBusters, who played all but one match this summer, and all but one of those were four- or five-game matches. He was closely followed by **Todd Bairstow** of Cambridge Athletic-Solons, who played seven of the nine matches, compiling a 4-3 record with all the losses at five games. The best percentage record of those playing more than half the matches was **Peter Manuelian** of the Harvard Club at 6-0, despite an increase in his handicap at mid-season. Honorable mention goes to **Corey Schafer** of Cross Courts-Drops and **DJ Monsma** of Cambridge Athletic-Solons, both undefeated at 4-0.

Sam Magruder

Summer League Coordinator

# U.S. SQUASH Adds Membership Benefits With Dues Increase

U.S. SQUASH has introduced new benefits available to all Association members to go along with a dues increase of \$10.00, effective September 1, 2008. Additionally, U.S. SQUASH released details on the Squash Professionals Affiliate Program, announced earlier this spring.

Membership fees include dues charged for local associations, which vary in cost and benefits delivered. U.S. SQUASH will continue offering the annual \$5 membership discount to members who participate in the "automatic renewal" program.

## Benefits Added to Membership

Bundled with U.S. SQUASH membership is the national fee for participation in any of the U.S. SQUASH Sanctioned Leagues and Ladders. Previously, Box Leagues required a \$5 national fee per 3-month cycle. This bundling creates a potential savings to members of \$20 per year. In addition, U.S. SQUASH will include four other league and ladder options for teaching pros, coaches and districts to use for local programming including Set Leagues, Flex Leagues, Challenge League and Challenge Ladder. U.S. SQUASH will announce details on all the league and ladder offerings in upcoming news releases.

Additional U.S. SQUASH membership benefits include regularly updated national, district and club-level ratings and rankings, a full-year subscription to Squash Magazine, a personalized membership card, discounts on entry fees at all sanctioned tournaments, a monthly e-newsletter, accident insurance coverage during sanctioned play, the opportunity to qualify for U.S. Championship tournaments, the ability to network with other U.S. SQUASH members via email (a new feature), access to official U.S. SQUASH Coaching and Referee Certification programs and discounts with Hilton Hotels. Many local district associations also bundle team league participation with membership and do not charge additionally to participate.

## Support for Teaching Pros and Coaches a Priority

A portion of the dues increase will support the new Squash Professionals Affiliate (SPA) program announced this year. With this program, U.S. SQUASH will offer personal liability insurance coverage to qualified squash professionals for coaching, access to a pre-screened, preferred network of health insurance providers, financial incentives for membership based on the number of members per court, discounted sanctioning fees, use of U.S. SQUASH for online entry offering discounts for players, waived sanctioning fees for U.S. SQUASH League and Ladder programs, free admission to the U.S. SQUASH Professional Development Conference (formerly "Coaching Conference"), the opportunity to sell U.S. SQUASH merchandise and co-brand in pro shops, and access to the U.S. SQUASH "Job Network" and "Professional Practices", an online collection of best practices for coaches and pros, and regional professional mentoring, and support and advocacy for professional development at clubs.

The new U.S. SQUASH online membership system will be available Tuesday, September 2, 2008. More details on U.S. SQUASH membership plans may be found at [www.us-squash.org/membership](http://www.us-squash.org/membership).

# U.S. Edged Out in “Battle of the Border”

*Reprinted from the US Squash website*

After a weekend of exciting competition at the White Oaks Resort and Spa in Ontario, Canada, Sunday’s match score in the Ontario-American Challenge stood tied at 12-12. In the tiebreaker, determined by total number of games won, the Ontario Team edged out the U.S. SQUASH Junior Team by a 44-42 margin, thereby winning the title for the first time since 2005.

The Ontarian and American teams were made up of 24 players each; four players in both boys and girls U13, U15, and U17 divisions. The U.S. team was led by four world-class coaches: Junior Men’s and U23 Head Coach Martin Heath, Junior Men’s Assistant Coach Adam Hamill, and former Trinity Squash Women’s Squash standouts Lauren Polonich and Fernanda Rocha.

The players immediately jumped on court for challenge games designed by Mark Sachvie, Canadian coach and tournament director. These contests served to introduce the teams to each other outside of the normal intensity of international competition. Indeed, throughout the weekend, many new friends were made both within each team and between the Canadian and U.S. players.

Saturday proved to be the most demanding day on court, as each competitor played a best-of-three game match against all four players on the opposing team in their age division. These results did not count towards the formal tally, but allowed the teams to get a sense of each other’s strength and experience play against a range of competitive levels.

After Saturday’s matches, the U.S. Team entered Sunday as underdogs. Each player would only play once on Sunday, a best-of-five match against the equivalent player on the opposing team. The first round jumped the U.S. out to early 4-2 lead, highlighted by a comeback five-game win by Boys U17 player Julian Kirby (MA) over Albert Shoihet. In the second round, BU15 player William Douglass (NY) pulled out a magical 10-9 in the fifth win over the favored Ryan Todd. Douglass was all the more excited because he pulled out the match of the tournament for his country on his birthday! In the third round, the U.S. once again was able to pull out close match, as GU15 Maria-Elena Ubina (CT) gutted out the win against Hollie Naughton in five hard-fought games, giving the U.S. 10 match wins, with only three more needed to clinch the title.

The strength of the Canadian team was at the top of their lineup, and they excelled in the late rounds. U.S. BU13 #1 Mason Ripka (NY), despite spectacular shot making and near full-splits around the court throughout five long games, was unable to pull out a comeback win over Jake Beck. To counter this loss, U.S. GU15 #1 Amy Smedira (OH) lost the first, but then executed her game plan perfectly to achieve a 4-game victory over Michelle Gemmell, completing a 4-match sweep for the U.S. GU15 Team. At the climax of the weekend, U.S. BU17 Brandon McLaughlin (PA), among the commotion of a rowdy crowd full of U.S. and Ontario flags, won a gritty 4-game match over Adam Engel highlighted by spectacular retrieving and smart shot selection in the face of tremendous pressure. This win put the U.S. up 12-11 in matches and tied in total game score at 41-41; whoever won the final match would claim the title. The final pitted U.S. BU15 #1 Graham Dietz (NY) against the favored Canadian, Josh Sehkar. In the first two games, Sehkar’s attacking style frustrated Dietz who fell in a 0-2 hole. However, as Sehkar began to feel the pressure in the third game, Dietz rose to moment. The U.S. team and supporters rallied behind him as he was able to take a close third game. The fourth game began the same as the third with Dietz jumping out to a 5-1 lead. However, the mental and physical energy he had put out to reach that point proved too much, as Sehkar took the title for the Ontario team.

The weekend was a great success. Both teams exhibited the highest levels of sportsmanship and developed excellent camaraderie throughout the competition. Coaches from both the U.S. and Canadian sides were impressed with the performances. The U.S. SQUASH Junior Team looks forward to wresting the title away in 2009.



**The U.S. team at the Ontario-American Challenge included four Mass Squash players: Edward Columbia, Courtney Jones, Julian Kirby, and Dori Rahbar.**

## Massachusetts Squash Slate of Officers/Board Members Nominated for 2008–2009

**Sam Magruder**  
President

**Dan Reagan**  
Vice President, Open League Coordinator

**Nat Lovell**  
Treasurer

**Bill Boardman**  
Secretary

**Carl Cummings**  
Membership

**Chris Lang**  
Open Tournament Coordinator

**Bry Roskoz**  
Women's League Coordinator

**Dominique Farinaux-Dumas**  
Women's Tournament Coordinator

**Erik Kirby**  
At large - Rules and Referees

**Linda Watts**  
At large - League Scheduling

**Tom Poor**  
At large - Investments, Junior Committee Chair

**Lenny Bernheimer**  
At large - Investments

**Simon Graham**  
At large - Yearbook Coordinator

**Sarah Lemaire**  
At large - Newsletter

**Merrill Martin**  
At large - Web Site

**Preston Quick**  
At large - Pro Liaison / Grand Prix Coordinator

**Chris Smith**  
At large - College Liaison

## US Squash Web Changes Underway

US Squash is substantially changing its web presence in an effort to better serve its members.

Changes will include a change to a new US Squash address—[www.ussquash.com](http://www.ussquash.com)—starting in October, from the current [www.us-squash.org](http://www.us-squash.org).

US Squash worked extensively with multiple groups to shape this effort, gathering input on the web design and functionality to meet the need of the squash community. The changes will benefit squash players of all types.

Improving this program fits with the new US Squash 3-year strategic plan. The enhanced technology platform will provide a tightly integrated user experience, and add new functionality required to achieve the US Squash's long term goals to grow membership, build awareness, and increase participation.

Transition will occur in stages and should be complete by the end of this year. You may have already seen some changes if you have visited the site recently.

**Membership** functionality will continue to provide for online membership signups, allow greater management of your personal profile, and over time, allow the ability for members to contact other members via email and post their availability to play.

**League and Ladder** capability will continue to support existing leagues tracking and reporting, and also offer multiple new features for other uses, such as entering and tracking of Club Ladders and Box Leagues, and the ability for players to enter "friendly" match results into their profile.

**Tournament** functionality to be delivered in October will allow players the opportunity to enter any sanctioned tournament, even multiple tournaments at once, all online.

**Player Information / Profile** functionality will include showing competition results dating back several years, including all tournament, league and team results. Prior history migration will occur over time.

Rankings enhancements will include having rankings be updated every other week.

Look for these exciting changes now and in the coming months!

## Mass Squash News Fall 2008

The Mass Squash News is published three times per year.

Massachusetts Squash, P.O. Box 51611 Boston, MA 02205-1611

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

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE: Lenny Bernheimer, Bill Buckingham, Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Sam Magruder, Tom Poor, Dan Reagan, Greg Zaff.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION may be obtained from P.O. Box 51611, Boston, MA 02205-1611, or [membership@ma-squash.org](mailto:membership@ma-squash.org), or [www.ma-squash.org](http://www.ma-squash.org).

Comments or suggestions may be addressed to: Sarah Lemaire, Editor, MSRA News, [slemaire@verizon.net](mailto:slemaire@verizon.net).