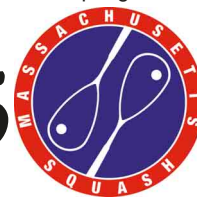


Mass Squash News



Massachusetts

Squash

Newsletter

President's Letter

The winter squash season has now successfully concluded, and I know many of you are wondering when you might receive your trophy. This is going to be an unusual year. Normally, the Massachusetts Squash annual meeting is held on the same night as the state doubles squash championships at the University Club. However, the club has undertaken a construction project that has temporarily eliminated the meeting rooms where we customarily gather to report on the past year, pass out trophies and other recognition, and elect new officers to the board of your Association. We tried to find some nearby alternative space to hold the meeting and still allow you watch some doubles, but the rental costs were prohibitive.

The Massachusetts Squash annual meeting has therefore been postponed until late September, 2008, the exact time and place to be determined. We will again be serving refreshments to entice you to come to the kick-off for the fall season, make up a quorum for the election of board members, and distribute all of this year's trophy hardware. While you can see the tournament results on the website, we will hold off publicly recognizing their accomplishments until we reconvene after the summer.

The National Skill Level tournament was held in New Haven, CT last month with a number of our members participating. With apologies to anyone I may have missed while reading the tournament draws, I am pleased to report that Massachusetts Squash members performed very well. **Erin Hurson**, formerly of Wellesley College and the Summer League, came in third in the Women's 2.5/3.0 round robin. **Jeanne Blasberg** made it all the way to the semi-finals of the Women's 5.0 tournament. **Cece Cortes** played in the Women's 5.5, losing to the #2 seed, but winning the Consolation draw. On the Men's side, **Brian Gourlie** also lost to the #2 seed in the main draw of the 3.0 tournament, and eventually lost in the Consolation final. **Mac Caplan**, however, went all the way, winning the 3.0 tournament. In the 3.5s, **Benjamin Mathes** lost in the finals. Two contestants at the 4.0 level, **Steven O'Brien** and **Joseph McManus**, lost in the quarter-finals. We are very proud to report that the 4.5 draw featured **Adrian Gill** all the way to the semi-finals, while on the other side, **Adam Vartikar** went all the way, winning the tournament. Our top-ranked participants, **John Fulham** and **Mike Semprucci**, both lost in the semi-finals of the 6.0 tournament. Congratulations to all of you!

Remember, squash continues to be played all summer. Watch your e-mail for the information on signing up. Lots of teammates are needed to cover for vacations. The Summer League will be playing every Wednesday night beginning June 18, 2008.

—**Sam Magruder**
President

Willstrop Takes the Players Cup



James Willstrop accepting his winner's check for the Players Cup championship. (Photo courtesy Seth Packard, SquashShots.com)

by Colleen Turner

Cambridge, MA, March 7, 2008 — The McWIL Courtwall Players Cup finals action started off with an entertaining Lightning Round featuring seven of Boston's best pros against former world number one, **Peter Nicol**. The quarterfinal winners were first to three; semifinalists, first to two; with the final decided by a single point.

The pace was fast and furious as **Preston Quick**, pro at the Union Boat Club, made swift work of the University Club's **Pat Malloy**: 3-1. Harvard's **Colin West** sent the UClub's second contender, **Doug Lifford**, packing with a 3-1 win. Sports Club LA's **Ben Howell** advanced over Boston Racquet Club's **Taiwo Kuti**, 3-1. And after a two-year absence, fans watched Peter Nicol take to the court against Harvard's **Chris Smith** in the his first match of the night. Smith looked solid, particularly next to the slender Nicol, but the likeable Brit squeaked out a 3-2 victory to advance. With first to reach two points determining whom advanced, Quick and West entered the court. Young Mr. West grabbed the first point; Quick answered in kind before West buried it deep in the back corner for the win. Howell came out hoping to drop a dime on Nicol, but alas to no avail. A clearly exhausted Nicol reached two first. Showing just a smidgen of mercy, event promoter **John Nimick** was kind enough to chat up the crowd as Nicol took a much needed breather. Facing Colin West for bragging rights, Nicol lost the spin, handing West the serve with but a single point to decide it all. The pressure obviously reached West as he missed an easy volley to the back corner. And, reminiscent of days past, Peter Nicol was yet again a winner in Boston.

(Continued on next page)

Willstrop Takes the Players Cup in Boston

(continued from page 1)

It was a packed house when finals action began with **David Palmer** (AUS, #5) off to a rocky start, downing two balls and sending another ball out of play. At 2-3 Palmer wrested the serve from **James Willstrop** (ENG, #4), but a long volley ended in the Brit's favor, putting him up 4-2. Willstrop racked up another three points before a soft shot just above the tin advanced Palmer on the board, but it was too little too late. Willstrop shot ahead to take the first game, 11-5, and a 1-love lead.

In game two, Palmer showed glimpses of greatness, but then just as often his play appeared clunky and just a bit slow. After a shot to the tin brought the game to 2-all, Palmer got back to basics, working the T tight and hard and bringing the score to 4-all. A couple of spills, as well as a tough no-let call to Palmer put Willstrop up 7-4. With his newly acquired Boston Irish up, Palmer fired off two to bring it to 6-7. But three hard-earned points took Willstrop to 9-6, before Palmer scraped his way back, making it 9-all. A fierce volley followed, taking it to 10-all. Willstrop's down ball put Palmer in the hunt, and the wily Willstrop pushed it to 11-all, before a let and stroke in Palmer's favor earned him the game.

In game three, with the score 4-all, Palmer grabbed three fast points to go up 7-4, before Willstrop came back for two points. Palmer took the serve back at 8-6, but a forced error and a missed shot tied it up again: 8-all. At 9-all, a stroke to Willstrop gave him the serve and the game ball. A missed shot put Palmer back in the game at 10-all. Palmer took the first point, only to down the next ball: 11-all. Willstrop quickly gave up a stroke, putting Palmer up 12-11. A stroke to Willstrop and then it was 12-all. A stunning shot by Willstrop advanced him one point and a tossed racquet by Palmer cost him the final stroke and the game.

Up 2-1 at the start of the game four, Willstrop took the serve and a 3-0 lead before Palmer returned the favor, earning his own three points. Another quick three put Willstrop up 6-3. At 8-5, Willstrop appeared unstoppable, forcing Palmer to down back-to-back balls. With the match on the line, Willstrop finessed a lovely winning shot to take the Players Cup title and the \$25K cash.

The McWIL Courtwall Players Cup is sponsored by McWIL Courtwall, Dunlop, Shipyard Brewery, WBUR and Dover Rug Company and is supported by Cross Courts, First Republic Bank, Natixis Global Advisors, Kansas City Life, Pinnacle Real Estate, Grand Circle Travel and Massachusetts Squash. Additional support for the Players Cup comes from McCall & Almy, Brown Brothers Harriman, Foley Hoag, Chubb, University Club of Boston and many generous individuals. We are grateful for their support.

For the complete standings and further information, visit www.playerscupsquash.com.



James Willstrop digs deep for a forehand in the Players Cup final against David Palmer. Photo courtesy of Seth Packard, squashshots.com.

Membership Questions

You probably know that any questions about your Mass. Squash membership can be directed to membership@ma-squash.org, but did you know that we can also answer questions that arise about your US Squash membership? And, if we don't already have the answer, we know where to get it. Therefore, if you have any questions about, or problems with, your Mass. or US Squash membership, send them to membership@ma-squash.org and we will deal with them promptly.

Mass Squash Address Policy

Massachusetts Squash does not release its members' postal or e-mail addresses to anyone.

Postal mailings by Mass. Squash, such as the Mass Squash News and the Yearbook and Directory, are handled by a mailing service to whom we provide a file of addresses from which they generate labels. Occasionally, we are asked by others to have materials sent to some of our members, such as a squash camp brochure to be sent to juniors. If we think the material might be of interest to those members, we direct the sender to provide the material to be mailed to our mailing service and we provide the addresses separately. The sender does not have access to the addresses.

All e-mails to the membership are sent by Mass Squash. Although we often include items and events of interest to our members other than our own events, such as tournament information, we do not make our e-mail list available for anyone else to communicate directly with the membership.

If you do not currently receive our e-mails and would like to, you can use the box at the bottom of our web site home page, www.ma-squash.org, to join our e-mail list. You should also be sure that e-mail from us will clear any spam blocker, firewall or filter you may have. If you do receive our e-mails and would like to be removed from our list, just click on the SafeUnsubscribe link that is at the bottom of each e-mail. If you prefer, you can also be added to or removed from our list by sending a note to membership@ma-squash.org.

State Open Softball Doubles Tournament

by Simon Graham and Paul Ansdell

This year we had 13 pairs entered in the state softball doubles—just enough for a single draw, which is a little unfortunate for those who were not lucky enough to have one or two ‘A’ players on their team, but then doubles is an incredibly leveling game especially when played in the spirit of fun that always seems to come out! Almost all of the matches were close, and many were followed by some serious socializing which, for me, is one of the main attractions!

The final was held at Concord-Acton on April 17. There was a good turnout of spectators to see the underdogs **Derek Moran** and **Nick Nevin** take on last year’s winners **Paul and Wendy Ansdell**; on the day after the match, Paul sent his report on how the evening went, which I’ve included below.

Hopefully we can persuade a few more of you to enter the tournament next season which will allow us to run more than one draw—I can’t emphasize enough how much fun this variant of the game is!



Jordan Macy and Aidan Donahue, finalists in the BRC “Young Bucks” (under 40) club tournament, February 7, 2008

From our special, on-court, correspondent Paul Ansdell:

“My mum said there would be days like this! I said Tuesday’s semi-final would be hard to match, but I think we might have just about succeeded last night.

“All I can say is the spectators were thoroughly entertained for about 80 minutes, give or take a few, in yet another five-game match ending 15-13 in the fifth. The only problem was the final outcome. How can anyone possibly let slip a 2-game lead? I know, it doesn’t seem possible does it. I bet none of you reading this have **ever** been 2-0 up and then gone down in the next three!

“The night started well, and we cruised through the first two games, 15-11, 15-13. All seemed well, the tactics were really working and the South Africans were beating a tune on the tin. Oh, how things can change! They obviously got fed up playing their tune and we started to play ours.

“Many minutes later, following some very long hard hitting rallies it was 2-2! 15-10, 15-11. The interval between the fourth and fifth games was huge, not just because of the amount of time taken but more importantly because I noticed how much of the food had been eaten. A quick calculation and I realized there would be none left unless we had a real quick final game. Alas, it was not to be. Another long game, more great rallies, tiredness creeping in and another close scoreline, 12-12! Two quick points later, we were match ball down. First one was saved but inexplicably at the end of the last rally of the match the ball jumped off my strings and dived, albeit delicately, into the tin! Aaaaarrggghhhhhh. Match to Derek and Nick.

“Aaaaarrggghhhhhhhh. No food left.

“Aaaaaaaarrrrrrrrggggggghhhhhhhhhhhhhh! Having to explain to Wendy how I managed to put the last two most crucial shots of my squash career into the tin.... Oh well, it’s only a game! Nope, she didn’t buy that lame excuse either!

“Congratulations to Derek Moran and Nick Nevin, MA State Softball Doubles Champions 2008.

“Thank you to Simon Graham for organizing the Doubles Tournament again and reffing the Final.

“Thank you to those that came to watch and ate all the food and drank all the beer and wine. I’m sure I’m slimmer this morning!”



The old boys can still mix it up! BRC 50+ Legends tourney, November 10, 2007. L to R: Jack Dane, Ken Weber, Dan Reagan, Digger Donahue, Mike Scenery, and BRC Pro Mike Downey.

How Do You Get the News?

The Mass Squash News is printed and mailed to members who request it and is also published online at the Massachusetts Squash web site, www.ma-squash.org. If a member’s preference isn’t known, a copy is mailed.

If you are receiving a printed copy of the News by snail mail but would prefer just to read it online, or if you are not receiving a printed copy but would like to in the future, please let us know by sending a note to membership@ma-squash.org.

Enjoy this issue, and have a great summer!

Massachusetts State Junior Championships

by Bill Nimmo, Mass Squash Junior Committee

The Mass Squash Junior Committee ended a very successful 2007–2008 squash season by once again holding the Massachusetts State Junior Championships at the SquashBusters facility at Northeastern University, February 29–March 2. If there are any doubters as to the growing popularity of junior squash, those doubts should be put to rest with the following fact: entries were up over 20% from a year ago and set a new high water mark at 192 total entries received. In fact, there is some question as to how much bigger this tournament can grow and still be held on the eight SquashBusters courts. With the bulk of the surge in entrants being found principally in the U13 and U15 age groups, it is clear that junior squash is on the rise here in Massachusetts.

The GU13 draw featured 25 girls. Last year's finalist, **Marina Hartnick**, was seeded 2nd, and made her way through the draw to reach the finals, where she encountered the #1 seed, **Addie Fulton**. Both girls had an easy time until their respective semi-finals; each then won a tough 4-game match to meet in the finals. Although Marina put up a good fight, Addie was just too strong, winning in 3 games to become the champion. In the consolation finals, **Haley Connor** found herself down 2 games to 1 against **Vanessa Anderson**, but fought back to win a tense five-game match. In the Plate draw, **Lisa Imafidon** defeated **Stepanie Almeida**.

23 girls entered the GU15 draw. In the top half of the draw, unseeded **Caroline Monrad** proved to be a giant-killer as she took out the #4 seed, **Charlotte Cabot**, in the quarters, then knocked out the #1 seed, **Kimran Bajwa**, in the semis. In the bottom half of the draw, #3 seed **Yuleissy Ramirez** reached the finals without losing a game. In the final, Caroline jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but Yuleissy refused to surrender. She fought back to win the 3rd game and was hoping to even the match in the 4th. Here, Caroline reasserted herself, and broke open a close game to pull away and win the championship. In the consolation finals, Charlotte Cabot won an exciting five-game match against **Zoe Carey**. In the Plate finals, **Jocelyn Arocho** defeated **Khalilah Jones**.

There were 16 girls in the GU17 draw. But among those 16, **Dori Rahbar** stood out. Seeded #1, she made her way to the finals without the loss of a single game. Reaching the final from the other half of the draw was last year's GU15 champion, **Katherine Nimmo**, who fought back from a 2-1 deficit in her semi-final against **Elizabeth Tapley** to prevail in five. In the final, Katherine competed gamely, but Dori's shotmaking and ball placement were superb, and proved too tough for Katherine to overcome. Dori won the championship match in 3 games, completing the tournament without the loss of a single game. In the consolation final, **Bianca Vega** squared off against **Andrea Tran** in a match that showcased two hard-hitting young SquashBuster ladies. Bianca ultimately prevailed in a very close four-game match. In the Plate final, **Hoai Tran** defeated **Carlota Feliciano**.

The GU19 draw was small, with only 6 entrants, but strong nonetheless, featuring 2 girls ranked in the top 24 in the country. **Sarah Crosky**, last year's GU17 champion, added a GU19 title to her collection by winning every match she played in the round robin event without dropping a game. **Alli Rubin** finished second, her only loss in the competition coming at the hands of Sarah.

The BU13 draw was the monster at this year's tournament: 44 entrants! Making their way to the finals were last year's finalist, **Ben Krant**, and this year's #1 seed, **Thomas Dembinski**. Thomas arrived in the finals without dropping a game in 4 matches. In the other half, Ben had a pretty easy time of it until he reached his semi-final match against **Atticus Kelly**. Here, Ben dropped his first 2 games of the tournament, and found himself facing elimination, down 2 games to 1 to Atticus. But Ben was on a mission, and won both the 4th and 5th games to propel him back into the finals. Against Thomas, Ben put up a good fight, but the combination of Thomas' relentlessly clean strokes and the fatigue from a tough five-game semi-final were too much for Ben, and Thomas emerged a most worthy champion, winning the final in 3 games. In the consolation final, **Will McBrian** won a closely contested four-game match against **Charlie Blasberg**. In the Plate final, **Tyler Billman** defeated **Louis Casiano**.

The BU15 draw was comprised of 25 boys, and offered few surprises along the way. The top four seeds all advanced to the semi-finals, and when they were completed, form still held. Top seeded **Liam Quinn** would face off against #2 seed **Aneesh Chuttani**. Neither boy lost a game en route to the finals, so anticipation heading into the last match was high. Liam quickly won the first 2 games, but Aneesh had plenty of fight left, winning the 3rd game 9-7. The fourth game was a back and forth affair, with not much separation between the two contestants. Finally, with a late-game surge, Liam pulled ahead to win the game, and the match. In the consolation bracket, both **Edward Hamlin** and **Alex Depina** had to survive difficult five-game semi-final matches in order to reach the final. There was some question as to what each boy would have left, but both demonstrated during the course of the final that they had ample reserves. In a very close, hard-fought match with many long rallies, Alex outlasted Edwin to earn a tight 4 game victory. In the Plate, in yet another four-game final, **Seth August** defeated **Jermaine Maddrey**.

Each year, there is one draw that garners a disproportionate share of the crowd-pleasing matches. This year, the BU17 draw took that honor. 31 boys entered the draw, and play was marked by many long rallies, and even longer matches. To borrow from Hollywood for a moment, this year's award for best performer in a dramatic role would have to go to **Matt Baker-White**. In his quarterfinal match against **Ryan Mullaney**, Matt found himself trailing 2 games to 1. Calmly, Matt won the 4th game to even the match at 2 games apiece. In the 5th game things looked bleak for Matt, as Ryan had match ball against him at 8-4. A series of points ensued, hand out after hand out, as Ryan narrowly missed gaining the decisive 9th point. Slowly but surely Matt climbed back to even the score at 8-all. Ryan called for "Set 1," and the crowd held its breath; the next boy to score a point would win the match. After 2 long rallies, each concluding in a hand out, Matt hit an exquisite crosscourt with perfect pace that died in the back corner: unreturnable. The sizeable crowd, which had assembled to watch the conclusion of the match, exploded in well-deserved applause for both boys. But Matt was just getting warmed up. In his next match, a semi-final, he drew the #1 seed, **Edward Columbia**. Edward, playing with the precision and touch that are hallmarks of his game, quickly jumped out to a 2-games-to-love

(Continued on next page)

Junior Wrap-Up for 2007-2008

by Libby McClintock, Mass Squash Junior Committee

We had another exciting year of junior squash in Massachusetts, with record numbers of kids participating in the tournaments, leagues, programs, Jams, and camps. Juniors of all ages are getting into the game of squash, and fortunately, Massachusetts Squash provides and supports many outlets for the demand. This year the USSRA added U11 as an official and ranked division in tournaments, so many younger players started tournament play at the local and national level.

This year the Massachusetts Squash Junior Committee organized and ran four tournaments. Cross Courts/Dana Hall, both new facilities, provided the venue for our first tournament of the season in early December, and a good number of juniors participated in this event. After the holiday season, the Massachusetts Junior Open, held at the Murr Center, Harvard University, started 2008 with a traditionally large number of kids who came from Canada, California, Pennsylvania, New York, Georgia, and Washington State! Word gets around about the good coffee served every morning, the relaxed atmosphere, the efficiency of the tournament, and the beautiful clock trophies awarded, and people want to come!

Two weeks later, the Junior Committee hosted and ran the Frank Millet Selection tournament, which was a three-day event over Martin Luther King weekend. The top juniors in the country participated, including a large group of our local kids.

The final tournament of the season was the Massachusetts State Championships, held at the SquashBusters facility at Northeastern University. This tournament always has high participation, and is a fun and social for both the players and parents before the squash racquets are put away and replaced by lacrosse sticks, baseball bats, and tennis racquets.

Numerous Massachusetts juniors competed at the national level, including the Hunter Lott Selection Tournament, the US Open, the Gold and Silver Junior Nationals, the Junior Doubles Championships, and the High School Championships. Articles, photos, and results of local and national tournaments can be found on the Mass Squash website and on the USSRA RailStation.

In early March, Boston hosted the Players Cup, which drew the top professional players in the world. The juniors had the opportunity to meet the pros at the Junior Jam, held at the Murr Center, Harvard University. Over sixty kids of all ages and abilities participated in this event, which included playing on court with the pros, a pizza dinner, autographed posters, and tickets to the qualifying round match.

The Junior League, a program that prepares beginner and intermediate players for tournament play, held six sessions at the Murr Center from October to March. Each session had between 75–90 kids of all ages. **Azi Djazani**, the program director, added another Junior League venue at Dana Hall School to accommodate older, more experienced players. Five sessions were held, and all were at full capacity of 20 juniors. The Junior League has been one of the most successful programs in squash introduction and development, thanks to Azi and her helpers, **Chris Spahr**, **Chris Brownell**, **Sharon Bradey**, and **Tom Poor**.

At the end of every squash season, the Massachusetts Squash Junior Committee likes to recognize both girl and boy players who have demonstrated sportsmanship during match playing and significant improvement in his/her game. Also, there is a year-end summer squash camp scholarship to one junior based on hard work, attitude, and character. These awards of recognition will be decided in May and given out at the next Massachusetts Squash meeting in the fall.

We look forward to seeing all of the juniors when they return this fall, and hope they will find time to participate in the many junior squash camps held locally and nationally. Happy summer!

Mass State Juniors

(continued from previous page)

lead. At this point, many in the crowd assumed that Matt's previous match had left him with nothing in the tank for his match with Edward; that assumption was incorrect. A fiercely contested 3rd game ended with Matt pulling out a 10-8 victory. Although he was still down 2 games to 1, the crowd felt the momentum shifting. Matt won the 4th, and then the 5th to complete a remarkable comeback and earn a berth in the finals for the second consecutive year. While Matt was providing heart-stopping theatrics in his half of the draw, in the bottom half, defending BU17 champion and #2 seed **Taylor Foehl** was quietly and methodically working his way through the draw to the finals. In a rematch of last year's final, Taylor and Matt, both from Williamstown, faced off once again. Although Matt won the first game, this time there were no rabbits left in the hat for him. Taylor won the next 3 games, and with it, the championship for a second time. Having recovered from his match against Matt, **Ryan Mullaney** proceeded to win the Consolation draw in a 3 game final against **Scott DeSantis**. In the Plate draw, **Charles Shoener** defeated **Michael Yoon**.

18 boys entered the BU19 draw, and form held all the way to the final, where #1 seed **Adam Vartikar** faced off against #2 seed **Greg Crane**. Neither boy dropped a game on their way to a date in the finals. In his valedictory match as a Massachusetts junior, Adam made sure he would end his junior career in the Commonwealth on a high note, defeating Greg in a four-game final. In the Consolation draw, **Anthony Zou** overcame **Earl Smith** after each survived a tough semi-final match. In the Plate draw, **Rodney Galvao** bested **Ellery Kirkconnell**.

A full weekend of squash for everyone! Thanks to SquashBusters, who once again opened their doors to us and hosted the tournament in their wonderful facility. And thanks to everyone who volunteered to help, in ways large and small. Without everyone's contribution, we couldn't pull it off.

2008 Mass Junior Closed



BU13 Classic Plate Champion—Tripp Kaelin (Boston)



GU15 Plate: Winner—Jocelyn Arocho (SquashBusters); Finalist—Khalilah Jones (SquashBusters)



GU15 Consolation: Winner—Charlotte Cabot (Dover); Finalist—Zoe Carey (Dedham)



GU17: Champion—Dori Rahbar (Newton); Finalist—Katherine Nimmo (Wellesley)



GU15: Champion—Caroline Monrad (Newton); Finalist—Yuleissy Ramirez (SquashBusters)



BU13 Consolation: Finalist—Charlie Blasberg (Boston); Winner—William McBrien (Dedham)



BU17 Plate: Winner—Charles Shoener (Ridgefield, CT); Finalist—Michael Yoon (Andover)



GU17 Plate: Finalist—Carlota Feliciano (SquashBusters); Winner—Hoai Tran (SquashBusters)



BU19: Finalist—Greg Crane (Belmont); Champion—Adam Vartikar (Brookline)



BU17: Finalist—Matthew Baker-White (Williamstown); Champion—Taylor Foehl (Williamstown)



GU13 Consolation: Finalist—Vanessa Anderson (SquashBusters); Winner—Haley Connor (Boston)



GU13 Plate: Winner—Lisa Imafidon (SquashBusters); Finalist—Stephanie Almeida (SquashBusters)

2008 Mass Junior Closed



**BU13: Finalist—Benjamin Krant (Williamstown);
Champion—Thomas Dembinski (Hamden, CT)**



**BU19 Consolation: Winner—Anthony Zou (Andover);
Finalist—Earl Smith (Brookline)**



**BU15: Finalist—Aneesh Chuttani (Dover);
Champion—Liam Quinn (Lincoln)**



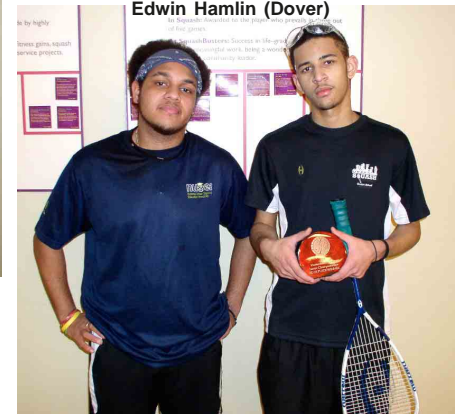
**BU17 Consolation: Finalist—Scott DeSantis (Sudbury);
Winner—Ryan Mullaney (Boston)**



**GU19: Champion—Sarah Crosky (Williamstown);
Finalist—Alli Rubin (Boston)**



**BU15 Consolation: Winner—Alex Depina (SquashBusters);
Finalist—Edwin Hamlin (Dover)**



**BU19 Plate: Finalist—Ellery Kirkconnell (SquashBusters);
Winner—Rodney Galvao (SquashBusters)**



**BU13 Plate: Winner—Tyler Billman (Brookline);
Finalist—Luis Casiano (SquashBusters)**



**BU15 Plate: Winner—Seth August (Boston);
Finalist—Jermaine Maddrey (SquashBusters)**



**GU17 Consolation: Finalist—Andrea Tran (SquashBusters);
Winner—Bianca Vega (SquashBusters)**

2008 State Doubles Champions



2008 State Mixed Doubles: Finalists—Chris Spahr & Hope Crosier;
Champions—Jenny Holleran & Doug Lifford



2008 State A Doubles: Champions—Sandy Tierney & Pat Malloy;
Finalists—Nadeem Osman & Chris Spahr



2008 State C Doubles: Finalists—Neil Paterson & Mike McKee;
Champions—Jordan Berns & Amrit Kanwal



2008 State 60+ Doubles: Champions—John Brazilian & Lenny
Bernheimer; Finalists—Chipp Adams & Joel Kozol



2008 State 50+ Doubles: Champions—Sandy Tierney & Lenny
Bernheimer; Finalists—John Connolly & Joe Duffey



2008 State B Doubles: Finalists—Joe Cortes & Scott Beebe;
Champions—Russ McIlvain & Tim Brennan

Can-Am Cup Doubles in Boston in October

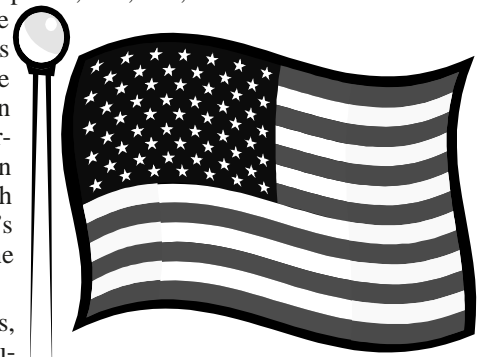
by Len Bernheimer

Twelve years ago, just when the Ryder Cup in golf was starting to soar in popularity, some of Boston's top squash doubles players speculated about how a similar competition between Canada and the United States would turn out in our own sport. For two years (1996 and 1997) we found out, as we organized The Can-Am Cup and invited the top five teams from each country to come and compete. The first year was particularly brilliant, going down to the last point in the last game, and with the U.S. triumphant (by the way, that winning match was won 18-17 in the fifth by our own **Greg Zaff** and **Doug Lifford** over Canada's **Alan Grant** and **Andrew Slater**.) The next year, Canada won convincingly, and after that (probably because of the one-sidedness of Canada's dominance), we went back to a single elimination event between top doubles teams.



What goes around apparently comes around (and it didn't even call "turning"), and another version of The Can-Am Cup has grown out of discussions about what to do with The World Doubles Championships. The Worlds is a biennial event that has alternated between Canada and the U.S. for the past fifteen years or so. The tournament was typically played in late April, and the draws mirrored that year's previously held Canadian and U.S. National Championships, minus many players who had already hung up their squash gear in favor of golf clubs and tennis racquets. In order to breathe new life into the event, this new Can-Am Cup has been devised. Boston will host it over the weekend of October 24-26, 2008, utilizing both courts at The University Club and the court at The Harvard Club.

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 will be 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 #2's vs. the #1's (each match worth 1 point). The final round will have the #1's vs. #1's and the #2's vs. #2's (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.



Organizing the event has already begun in earnest. There will be social events, tournament favors, medals for the winners, great camaraderie, and all the usual accoutrements of regular tournaments, enhanced by the nationalistic drive to establish supremacy in the doubles world. If those mid-90's Can-Am competitions are any guide, it gets tremendously exciting as the competition progresses, and each match can have an increasing effect on the final result.

Additional information will be available in future newsletters and communications. If you would like to find out more about the event, please contact any of the organizing committee (**Len Bernheimer, Sharon Bradey, Doug Lifford, Mary McKee, Tom Poor, Mat Sibble, Chris Spahr, and Sandy Tierney**).



2008 State Parent-Child Doubles: Champions—Greg & David Crane; Finalists—Carson & Chris Spahr



2008 State Womens Doubles: Finalists—Margaret Gerety & Hope Prockop; Champions—Robin Silver Grace & Mary McKee

SquashBusters Derby Photos

The Second SquashBusters Derby, held on May 3, the same day as the Kentucky Derby, featured some great squash from world-ranked pros, local adult players, and SquashBusters students. The event raised about \$213,260 for the organization.



Salubrious: The winning team at the SquashBusters Derby (L-R): Chris Madison, Andy Goldfarb, Tony Simboli, John Blasberg (captain), Jenny Huynh (SquashBusters), Bill Ullman, Randy Coplin (SquashBusters), and pro Chris alke



SquashBusters executive director Teresa Soares-Pena chats with Caroline and Fletch Hosmer of Hanover, NH.



World-ranked pro and Player's Cup runner-up David Palmer and his daughter Kayla enjoyed the Derby.



Enjoying the festivities and wearing the latest in fashionable headgear are (L-R): Katie Thatcher, Gerry Krischner, Meredith Johnson, and Al Lavoie.



Dominique Farinaux Dumas, with her husband Stephane Dumas, celebrated her birthday at the SquashBusters Derby.

A Star is Born: 2008 Massachusetts Squash Doubles Championships

Carson Spahr, 11 years old, didn't win the final match but certainly was the talk of the evening. Half the height of most of his opponents in the Parent-Child division, he fielded virtually all the balls in his direction, and, with some assistance from his father **Chris**, took the favored **David & Greg Crane** father-son tandem to five games before losing at 12. This year could be the dawn of a long run for the Spahrs, already the 2008 National Father-Son U13 champs. They narrowly escaped twice previously, winning the quarters in five over **Joe & Cece Cortes**, then again in five over **Tom & Liam Quinn**. The Cranes, with Greg's softball talent and speed, had an easier time with victories over **Mike & Sarah Loucks** and **Jamie & Serena Fagan**. The Parent-Child final was one of many exciting matches on finals night, May 5, held at the University Club with full galleries of family, friends and competitors fortified by refreshments. The evening was the culmination of the 2008 edition of the State Doubles, run over two months, including 155 players in eight divisions.

Perhaps the most strenuous evening was put in by Chris Spahr, who played in three finals, avoiding cramps by periodically stretching. Chris teamed with **Hope Crosier** in the Mixed to face the new, unseeded **Jenny Holleran & Doug Lifford**. Doug has won this title five times with Muffie Andruss and Mary McKee. Jenny's credentials are not too shabby either; she shares genes with sister Demer, perhaps the finest woman player the US has produced. Jenny and Hope traded cross courts with occasional errant balls giving the men a chance to shoot. Doug got a few more, contributing to their four game victory. They had a rough road to the title, defeating **Lee Belknap & Greg Zaff** in the quarters and **Mary McKee & Sandy Tierney** in a three game semi-final. Chris & Hope for the second year defeated **Margaret Gerety & Dave Adams**, then **Margot Kearney & Pat Malloy** in the semis.

Chris' evening continued with the A final. Playing with his assistant, **Nadeem Osman**, they faced defending champs **Sandy Tierney & Pat Malloy** who beat them a year ago in the semis. This year, Chris & Nadeem defeated **Tyler Hill & Glenn Prichett**, then **Ming Tsai & Preston Quick**, a top-ranked ISDA pro and pro at the Union Boat Club, in four. Sandy & Pat arrived at the finals with wins over **Scott Poirier & LA Sports pro Ben Howell**, then **John Nimick & Andrew Slater**. The strategy was to batter the 54-year old Tierney into submission, which worked in the first game. Things went awry (depending on your point of view) from then on as Sandy refused to wilt, Chris and Nadeem differed on who to play, and Pat scampered all over the court picking up the short ones. The result was the final three games to Tierney-Malloy and a successful defense of their title. Note: Sandy first won this title 21 years ago in 1987 with **Lenny Bernheimer**.

Another theme of the night was the attempt by **Neil Paterson & Mike McKee** to regain the C title they won in 2006. Mike captained the Princeton hockey team in the 90's, played some as a pro, then stepped up to the rigors of doubles squash under the tutelage of wife **Mary**. Neil covers the backhand well, and they got to the finals with wins over **Mike Connor & Steve Quigley**, **Curt Lefebvre & Dean Williams** and **Peter Goodall & Bob Frazier**. Their final obstacle was unseeded **Amrit Kanwal & Jordan Berns**, winners over **Dick Whitney & Craig Gibson** and **Pepper Riley & Tucker Jones**. Mike & Neil hammered away, 15-4, in the first game. An emergency Kanwal-Berns team meeting was called during the break, resulting in a switch in sides. Even a Princeton degree couldn't cope with the new alignment, as Amrit & Jordan won the next three in convincing fashion.

Mike's mentor **Mary** was having her own problems. Unhappy about losing in the Mixed semis, she was determined to win the Womens with **Robin Silver Grace**. Mary has won this event since it began in 2004, three times with sisters Berkeley and Lee and last year with Robin. They reached the finals with a four-game conquest of Harvard Club Pro **Sharon Bradey & Jeanne Blasberg**. On the other side, **Margaret Gerety & Hope Prockop** defeated **Jenny Holleran & Hope Crosier** in four. The final was a close, long affair with three games decided by a single point. After losing match point in the fourth game, Mary & Robin were finally able to break free, winning the fifth at 8.

Mary's former partner, **Sandy Tierney**, was having a good night. He linked up again with 1987 teammate **Lenny Bernheimer** to win the 50's over **Joe Duffey & John Connolly** in three games. They almost didn't make it. In the semis, **John Brazilian & Willard Bigelow** were up 2-1 in games and two match points in the fourth. Neither materialized and Sandy & Lenny won the final game at 12. Joe & John had a similar down match point experience in their five game win over **Malcolm Davidson & Jon Ross**, winners of this title in 2005 and 2006.

Things turned more cheery for John Brazilian in the 60's as he and Lenny Bernheimer won this title for the third year running. Their final victims were Florida resident **Chipp Adams** and ageless **Joel Kozol**, a winner of the 50's and 60's as far back as 1989 with Mohibullah Khan, the famous Harvard Club pro. They prevailed in the semis over **Bruce Shulman & Marty Stocklan** in three while John & Lenny took out former titleists **Tom Poor & Peter Laird**.

The largest draw of the tournament was the 28-team B division. The top seed, **Joe Cortes & Scott Beebe**, made it to the final, Joe trying to repeat last year's triumph with **Greg Vernick**. They narrowly escaped in a five-game quarterfinal over **Errin Siagel & Bobby Harkins**, then a close semi-final victory over **Kevin Brennan & Mat Sibble**. In the bottom half, second seed and last year's finalists, **Andrew Matuch & Len Zide**, progressed nicely over **Jim Milton & John Hailer**,

Gerry Kirschner & Amrit Kanwal, then faced unseeded **Tim Brennan & Russ McIlvain**. Once again, the seeds failed in four. The final was a see-saw affair with some nice reverse corners from Joe, some loud tins from Tim and determination from Russ and Scott on the right side. Fittingly, the last game came down to the wire with Tim & Russ winning at 13.

So, the winners can crow for the summer while the losers lick their wounds and the injured heal theirs. More excitement is in store as the Union Boat Club lays plans for a new doubles court, sure to bring in a new influx of players and making Boston a suitable venue for a major tournament with four courts in the city. This development, the large number of players in the States, and the emergence of younger players bode well for the future of the doubles game in Boston.

Adult Leagues: End-of-Season Reports

Women's 3.5/4.0

by Bry Roskoz, League Chair

The women's 3.5/4.0 league teams pretty much finished out their season like their team namesakes. The Patriots were undefeated as a team for the first two-thirds of the season but rather limped into the end of the regular season in first place with 67% of total points. On the other hand, the Red Sox picked continued to pick up steam throughout the season and edged out the Bruins to secure the other spot for the finals.

The evening of March 5th saw the final showdown and true to form, the Red Sox pulled out the win, upsetting the favored Patriots. The evening started out with what turned out to be the match of the evening and possibly the season with **Caroline Shannon** (Sox) and **Lauren Holleran** (Patriots) battling it out in the #1 position. In front of a full gallery over the course of an hour plus, Caroline pulled out the win in the 5th to earn the Patriots their sole win of the night. At #2, **Neely Steinberg** (Sox) ousted **Bry Roskoz** (Patriots) to even things up. And the final match of the evening saw **Heather Duckworth-Smith** (Sox) take three straight from **Lisa Evans** (Patriots) to seal the championship. In the #3/#4 playoffs the Bruins held on to their third spot against the last-place Celtics.

As has become the custom for the women's 3.5/4.0 league everyone celebrated the season's success afterward with much food, drink and laughter. Discussion even centered on next season with some big questions looming ahead. What are the chances Pam will be stranded on a desert island with Meredith and Bry again? Will Corey continue to give Terry a ride to league night? Will anyone ever be able to retrieve Lauren's evil forehand drop shot? What "friends" will Kara bring to league matches next year? Stay tuned... the summer will be over before you know it!

Women's 2.5

by Sarah Lemaire, League Chair

The women's 2.5 league multi-year champions, the Maugus Club, finished this season in first place, but were upset in the final by Concord-Acton, which won their first league title in 8 years. While I wasn't there to cheer my teammates on, I heard the final came down to the wire. Undefeated **Peg Sestrich** (CASC) beat **Kerry Wellington** (MC) in five tough games. **Catherine Kniker** (CASC) as usual didn't on time, but when she did show up, she used her tricky play to outwit the equally tricky **Lucy Bradley** (MC) in four games. **Elaine Apostolidis** (CASC) lost in three to **Becky Lingard** (MC), while **Debbie Harrison** (MC) took **Jennifer Moran** (CASC) to five games before Jennifer eked out the win. Debbie had her revenge with her camera; the photos I received from that night has the CASC team looking bleary-eyed, not suitable for publication, while the Maugus team members look bright and beautiful in their photo! The Maugus team was as gracious as always, while the CASC women, including captain **Coleen Phillimore** and teammate **Mo Ramage**, did their usual post-match celebrating after a Maugus match at Bertucci's in Wellesley. I think the Maugus ladies should have treated them to a meal at Blue Ginger, eh?

The SquashBusters team finished in third place. **Suzi Melotti** squeaked her way into the playoffs, but couldn't chase down all of **Catherine Kniker's** lobs. The BSC-Waltham finished in fourth place, and gave Maugus a run for its money in the playoff semis. The BSC team was ably captained by **Lisa Putukian** and **Susan Hall Mygatt**, but they need to get all their strong players to show up on the same night. Some of the Maugus players are defecting to BSC, so it will be an interesting mix on their team next year.

The University Club benefited from the addition of **Erin Hurson** and **Mary Ni** this year, although Erin has moved out of Boston, settling on the West Coast. I met Erin when she played for Wellesley several years ago, and her love for the game was evident then. She's improved tremendously (with the help of a certain good-looking guy), and we'll miss her smile and enthusiasm. The Cambridge team didn't make the playoffs this year, and **Maria Mayorga** struggled at #1, but as always, they had the best turnout for the league social.

Many of our stronger players attended the newly organized 3.0 round robins, which was a great opportunity for them to test their mettle against stronger players.

Our state championship final included two players who did not play in the league this year. **Liz Young** dominated in the tournament and in the final, defeating **Sabrina Davies** in three games. Both Liz and Sabrina played in the Open leagues this year, and had great runs in the state tournament.

Peg Sestrich was the obvious choice for the #1 ranking. She held off all comers at the #1 position, despite several five-game matches, and played whenever her captain begged her to.

Congrats to everyone! See you in October. Howe Cup tryouts will be here before you know it!

50+

by Sam Magruder, League Commish

Senior Circuit Won Again by the Boston Racquet Club

For the fourth time in the last five years, the Boston Racquet Club won the 50+ League after a tightly contested three-round playoff. The teams with the two best season records, BRC and Maugus, were given a first round bye and home court advantage. The first round found the Harvard Club paired off against Concord-Acton and Milton traveling to the Union Boat Club. Both of those matches were decided 3-2, with total games dictating the outcome. UBC's 8-7 win was highlighted by the only sweep on the night with **Phil Laird** winning over **Paul Stakutis**. **Sandy Pegram** won at #2 at 3-1 over **Ed Lee**, which was enough to offset close losses by **Jon Smith** to **Mike Spatola** and **Spencer Macalaster** to **John Catlin**. Up in Concord, the Harvard Club took the top two matches, while losing at #3 and 4. **Len Miller** won over **Shef Halsey** while **Tom Quinn** was handed a decision when **Roger Jones** pulled a muscle while leading 2-1 and 10-8 in the fourth game. **Phil Brewer** avenged an earlier loss to **Jay Darby** to take the #3 match and **Kevin Hollister** went to five games to edge **Pe-**

Adult Leagues: End-of-Season Reports (cont'd)

ter Papesch. The Harvard Club's 9-8 decision sent them on the BRC for the semi-finals.

The second round showed why the Maugus and the BRC finished 1-2 in the regular season. BRC's once-beaten #1 **Barclay Douglas** handled **Bruce Merrifield** 3-1, losing only the maximum handicap game #3. **Dan Reagan** recorded a win at #2. The speed merchants of the BRC retrieved beautifully from the Harvard Club's shotmakers at bottom of the ladder. **Rip Hastings** won 3-1 over **Sam Magruder**, and **Ken Weber** took **Linton Moulding** by a total of four points in four games. The Maugus Club also recorded a sweep over Union Boat Club in four very close matches. **Mark Dickenson** defeated **Sandy Pegram** 3-1 at #1 and **Martin Deale** prevailed by the same score over **Archie McIntyre**. **Larry Hargreaves** came back to defeat the very aggressive shotmaker, Jon Smith by 3-2, and **John Totman** eventually won over a tenacious **Mike Keating** in five games. Captain **John Hemenway** later commemorated the historic event with a parody of the original Tennyson poem, by composing his version of the Charge of the Boat Brigade into the valley of death.

The finals was a war with the downtown "Killer Bees" taking on the invaders from the west of 128, led by Captain **Keith Munsell** of the Maugus Club. At #1, **Barclay Douglas** re-exerted his dominance over his only conqueror, beating **Mark Dickenson** 3-1. The match was tied at 1-1 when **Larry Hargreaves** gutted out a fifth-game victory, inflicting only the second defeat all season on **Rip Hastings**. The #2 match pitted the tricky South African **Martin Deale** against the smooth-shooting **Digger Donahue**. Deceptive reverse corners were probably the deciding factor as Martin took a 3-1 victory. The BRC's streak was riding on the shoulders of second-year man **Ken Weber**. He was more than up to it tonight, sweeping the over-matched **John Totman**. Captain **Mike MacDonald** is already plotting his defense strategy for next year which we are told will feature some of his own play!

Open 5.5

by Chris Lang, League Chair

UCLUB 2 Team Dominates 5.5 League

It was a fast and furious fight to the finish this year. After a fiercely competitive season, ten teams were reduced to four. The semi-finals pitted the U Club Two team vs. a wounded T & R and U Club One vs. The Union Boat Club.

Unfortunately, the T & R, with three out of four of its main players riding the gurney, was no match whatsoever for the **Pat Malloy**'s team. They received quite the merciless trouncing, dropping all four matches. In the other semi, the Union Boat Club defeated U Club One.

The finals pitted two formidable league titans against one another. Try as they may, with the exception of **Preston Quick**'s 3-1 win over **Pat Malloy**, the University Club 2 team was simply too much for the Boat Club to handle.

Congratulations to the U Club Two team as they defeated the Union Boat Club 3-1!

Pat Malloy lost to **Preston Quick** 1-3

Doug Lifford def. **Scott Kennedy** 3-1

Andrew Matuch def. **Tyler Hinderman** 3-1

Scott Poirier def. **Anthony Bardaro** 3-1

It was a great season and I look forward to acting as league chair in '08/'09.

Open 4.5

by Dan Reagan, League Chair

It was a great season. There were many close matches and league dynamics were fantastic. We owe this in part to our captains and many veteran players, who set the example for competitive play, squash knowledge, and sportsmanship...and this is a league that knows how to have fun!

There were 10 teams in the mix, with one dominant team, UClub, and 4 strong teams, Maugus, T&R, UBC, and MIT. Concord, BRC, and BSC-Allston were competitive at a cut below. Cross Courts gets rookie of the year honors. Harvard Club struggled due to varying player availability. The 4.5 League has fantastic captains. They did a great job at rallying their teams and staying on top of their duties. The next day reports were terrific, which helps league dynamics. Thanks Captains! **Tom Bu, Doug Carr, Peter Goodall, Josh Greenhill/ Forgan McIntosh, Amrit Kanwal, David Kohn, Christopher Malenfant, Nick Nevin, Rob Park, and Dan Zelman.**

Congrats to UClub for taking both regular season and playoff honors. Led superbly by **Amrit Kanwal**, the lineup of **Todd Basnight, Tim Brennan, Ric Calvillo, Jon Hyett, Gerry Kirschner, Glenn Prichett, and David Shulman** was the best! Of course we did also have some great playoff matches, with thanks to T&R, Maugus, MIT, UBC, and BRC.

Congrats to **Johan Du Randt**, who in 16 regular season/playoff matches, proved he was truly unbeatable in this league. We wish him well next year in the big leagues!

And, in addition to Johan, congrats and thanks to some of the league stalwarts/regulars, who due to a combination of their skill level and availability, managed to play 12 or more matches this season: **Jan Kansky, Mark Dickenson, Wendy Ansdell, Steve Gaklis, Dave Heather, Ken Leng, Forgan McIntosh, Michael Millner, Rich Schafer, Szilvi Szombati, Jeremy Wintersteen, Dan Zelman, Gerry Kirschner, Dave Phillimore, Andy Roberts, Rob Wagenaar, Eric Godes, Josh Greenhill, David Kohn, Mike McElroy, Nick Nevin, and Rob Park.**

Open 4.0

by Simon Graham, League Chair

At the end of this season, results followed the seeding all the way to the final, but then Cambridge Athletic fielded their consistently strong team and BSC Waltham, who were missing several of their top players, could not stop the behemoth!

BSC-Waltham's substitute captain **David McGuire** put it best when he said, "We should have argued for one-game sudden-death matches," as they won the first game of all four

(continued on next page)

Adult Leagues: End-of-Season Reports (cont'd)

matchups that night. However, since we kept to the traditional rules, in each of the top three matches, the Cambridge player then proceeded to come back strongly and take the next three games. Only Jon Hickok, playing number 4 in his first season at the 4.0 level, was able to reverse the trend and come back to win his match 3-2.

In the individual rankings, which are based on head-to-head league results, the following players were ranked:

| Rank | Player |
|------|----------------------|
| 1 | Ian Cooper(*) |
| 2 | Francisco Galicia(*) |
| 3 | Edward Lew(*) |
| 4 | Amit Urs |
| 5 | Girish Venkataramani |
| 6 | Susan Kelly |
| 7 | Naveen Cherukuri |
| 8 | Victor Mireku |

Those players marked with an (*) are also being promoted the 4.5 league (based on their total dominance over the rest of us in the league!)

Thanks to everyone for another great season—now it's time to relax for a bit and then start training for next season!

Open 3.5

by Merrill Martin, League Chair

In the second half of the season, Cross Courts regained the #1 position in the league after having lost it to Milton Academy at mid-season. Cross Courts ended the regular season with an incredible 82.1% of possible points, and Milton was close behind at 80%. The Harvard Club climbed from 6th place at mid-season to finish in 3rd place at 57.1% followed by Cambridge Athletic Club with 55.3% and BSC Waltham with 50.6%. Concord-Acton and Tennis and Racquet tied at season end at 46.3%, as did the Union Boat Club and M.I.T. with 42.4%.

Boston Racquet Club, BSC Allston, and the Longfellow Club all had their moments of glory, like when Allston defeated UBC in week 11 by winning the #1, #2 and #3 matches, or when BRC defeated Milton in week 12. And I'm still wondering how **Jim Ogletree** of Longfellow defeated the ever dominating **Julia Moore** in a three game match in the last game of the season.

This year, the 3.5 league held a three-week playoff with the top 8 teams playing for the season plaque. With a tie for the 8th position between the Union Boat Club and M.I.T., league rules sent UBC to the playoffs, as they had defeated M.I.T. in their match during the regular season. The first round of the playoffs did not result in any upsets, but there were no blow-outs either; Milton Academy (the #2 seed) tied Tennis & Racquet in matches and games, winning on points. Cross Courts, Harvard Club and Cambridge moved on to the semi-finals by winning 3 of the 4 matches played.

The finals came down to Cross Courts and Milton Academy playing at the new Cross Courts facility in Natick with about 30 spectators to witness the season-ending finale. The #1 match played by **Ethan Kerr** of Milton and **Reyn Wagenaar**

of Cross Courts is probably the finest squash I've ever seen played at the "3.5" level. Ethan finally won this match in 5 exhausting games! Had **Sue Kerr** of Milton not injured herself in the semis, the outcome may have been different, but Cross Courts won the season championship by one game. **Corey Schafer** of Cross Courts defeated **Paul Stakutis** in 5 games at #2, **Stuart Chandler** of Cross Courts defeated **Ed Lee** in 3 games and **Jerry Stonehouse** of Milton defeated **Mike Lee** in 4 games.

It is my impression that all of the players in our division have improved to lesser or greater degrees. While some players (and I'll include myself in this group) have upped our games a little, I've been first-hand witness to some players making quantum leaps in their skill level on the court! These players allow all of us to dream of games to come!

Open 2.5

by Carl Cummings, League Chair

Newton Squash defeated Andover Racquets in the last week of the regular season to finish atop the standings and grab the number 1 seed for the playoffs. Meanwhile, Boston Racquet Club and FoMaMA went into the final week tied for the fourth and final playoff spot and came out of it the same way but the tie broke FoMaMA's way based on earlier head-to-head results.

FoMaMA basked for a week, until it met Newton in one of the playoff semifinals. Newton took all four matches to advance, although their #1 and 2 players, **Jeff Kolodney** and **Steve Silverman**, were pushed to five games by their FoMaMA counterparts, **Phil Murphy** and **Raj Sinha**.

Andover hosted Harvard Club in the other semifinal. Harvard Club captain **Mac Caplan**, who would later go on to win the state 2.5 tournament, defeated Andover captain **Mark Attarian** in straight games and **Raj Jayashankar** took the #3 match for Harvard Club after dropping the first two games against **Gene Tyrell**, but **Manoj Munjal** grabbed the #2 match for Andover, 3-1, over **Vikram Kumar** and Andover's **David Marson** had a walkover when **Mark Corrigan** had to default due to injury. That split the matches and gave Andover 8 games to Harvard Club's 7 and put Andover into the finals.

But, while the same teams that battled for first place two weeks before were set for a rematch, one team was not quite the same. Three of Newton's four players had played in their earlier victory, but Andover went into the finals contest with only one player from the prior match. At #1, **Robert Saunders** played for captain **Mark Attarian**, who was spending school vacation week managing his team from a Caribbean isle. Saunders avenged Attarian's loss to **Jeff Kolodney**, winning 3-0. **Steve Silverman** took the #2 match for Newton, 3-0, avenging his own earlier loss to **Manoj Munjal**, Andover's only holdover. **Gene Tyrell** stepped in at #3 and extended the avenger theme, defeating **Jason Klein**, again by 3-0, while **John Madfis** of Newton topped Andover's **Peter Caruso** at #4 by, you guessed it, 3-0. With each team winning two matches and six games, all available fingers and toes were pressed into service and, when the scores were totaled up, Andover prevailed, 84 points to Newton's 72.

State Singles Softball Champions & Finalists

- Open 5.5: **Preston Quick**, John Fulham...(3-0)
 Open 4.5: **Gerry Kirschner**, Rich Schafer...(3-0)
 Open 4.0: **Edward Lew**, Brian Hicks...(3-0)
 Open 3.5: **Liam Quinn**, Rob Soni...(3-1)
 Open 2.5: **Mac Caplan**, Ricardo Ramirez...(3-1)
 Women's 4.5+: **Hope Prockop**, Fernanda Rocha...(3-)
 Women's 3.5: **Corey Schafer**, Neely Steinberg...(3-0)
 Women's 2.5: **Liz Young**, Sabrina Davies...(3-0)
 Women's 35+: **Hope Prockop**, Wendy Ansdell...(3-1)
 Men's 35+: **Tyler Hindermann**, Ali Merchant...(3-1)
 Men's 40+: **David Bennett**, Michel Bayard...(3-1)
 Men's 45+: **Philip Constable**, Will Bigelow...(3-0)
 Men's 50+: **Derrick Niederman**, Sam Thayer...(Def.)
 Men's 55+: **Robert Loring**, Dave McGuire...(3-0)
 Men's 60+: **Bert Kornyei**, Jonathan Smith...(3-0)
 Men's 65+: **Walter Fraze**, Wayne Hodges...(3-1)
 Men's 70+: **Doug Lee**, Lew Holmes...(3-0)



Mens 70+ Finalist—Lew Holmes (Maugus Club); Champion—Douglass Lee (Cambridge Athletic Club)



Womens 3.5 Champion—Corey Schafer (Cross Courts); Finalist—Neely Steinberg (Sports Club-LA)



Mens 65+ Champion—Sandy Fraze (Tennis & Racquet Club); Finalist—Wayne Hodges (Concord-Acton)



Mens 4.5 Champion—Gerry Kirschner (University Club); Finalist—Rich Schafer (Cross Courts)

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