

# Mass Squash News



Massachusetts

Squash

Newsletter

## President's Letter:

There was a great turnout last week for the Annual Meeting and the state hardball doubles final at the University. Having completed my two-year term, your new president, **Dan Reagan**, was happy to defer his first letter until next fall. I want to thank all members for their support of Massachusetts Squash, keeping it one of the largest, most active and best-financed local associations in the country. In a departure from the recent past, there was an unusual amount of turnover on the board this year, and only those who attended the meeting were informed of the changes.

Four dedicated squash players left the board this year, and we thank them for their service and continued support of our activities. **Simon Graham**, former VP and the editor of the Yearbook, is taking some time for his job and family. He is likely to remain heavily involved in league activities and in softball doubles. We owe Simon extra thanks for his efforts over the past two years to help US Squash modify their new computer system so it can accommodate our needs for league and tournament administration. He was the primary beta tester in our organization, running the 3.5 league two years ago on two systems simultaneously. **Bill Boardman's** growing family and heavy travel schedule forced him to relinquish his position as Secretary. Bill brought a new concise style to the minutes of our monthly meetings. **Bry Roskoz** retired from her position as the long-time Women's League Coordinator. She is assuming new responsibilities as an officer of the University Club, but she will remain very visible in leagues and tournament play, including the Howe Cup. She is this year's Women's 3.5 champion. Finally, we say goodbye to **Sarah Lemaire**, the editor of this terrific newsletter. She is keeping her role as the Women's 2.5 League Coordinator, where she invented the concept of league socials, which has spread to the other skill levels. Sarah's extraordinary contributions to Mass Squash were recognized at the Annual Meeting when she won the Ellen Borie Award, emblematic of her sportsmanship and spirit.

Five new recruits and one returning veteran have stepped up to join the board. All are active team players in the Leagues. Several have served as team captains, and one already has a year of League Coordinator experience under his belt. Your new Secretary is **Harold Helson**. He has been both captain and team photographer for several Cambridge Athletic Club teams. He has been playing for over a decade and wants to increase the interactivity among the players using technology. **Ripley Hastings**, a member of both the 50+ and the 4.0 League championship teams for BRC, assumes the Open League Coordinator position on the board. Last year, he served as both team captain and the 4.0 League Coordinator, so he couldn't be better prepared to take on this role. Rip played squash in his high school and college days, but was out of the game for almost 30 years. Then his law firm moved into the same building as the BRC. He's been improving ever since. **Betsy Hargreaves** is the your new Women's League Coordinator. She was introduced to squash by her husband only five years ago. It came easily as she was already a tennis player. By 2007, she was good enough to win the RI women's tournament and a finalist in the MA women's 2.5 tournament. Needless to say, she was promoted. Betsy has also played in the Howe Cup for four years. **Maria Mayorga** started playing squash in college in Guatemala, where she grew up. Moving to Boston in 1999, she has been a fixture on the Cambridge Athletic Club's 2.5 team and the Howe Cup teams. Her experience as captain of her 2009 league championship team and her enthusiasm will make her successful in her new role as Women's Tournament Coordinator. **Dara-Lynn Pelechatz** volunteered to take over as newsletter editor. Introduced to the game only in 2006, she has learned by playing in the BSC-Waltham box leagues and as a substitute on their 2.5 team. Despite her relatively late arrival on the scene, she has already played in tournaments in Florida, Maine, Massachusetts and D.C. Our returning veteran is **Paul Chastanet** who reassumes his role as the webmaster. Paul has also served under five other Mass Squash presidents as Vice President and Treasurer. The Open 4.0 team that he captained this year easily won the regular season title, but barely lost in the finals of the playoffs.

While I won't be writing any more of these letters, I have a role specified in the Bylaws which will keep me around for at least two more years. I look forward to working with many of you as the Coordinator of the 50+ and Summer Leagues. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our squash community.

—Sam Magruder

Immediate Past President, Massachusetts Squash

# League Play Nights

## 2009-2010 Season

*Dan Reagan, Mass Squash President*

**Note to all league players:** League Coordinators are looking at the possibility of changing the assigned league play nights for next season. The decision will be made this summer. Any changes would be to address the fact that two of the biggest leagues—Open 3.5 and Open 4.0—play on the same night. This is hard on sponsor clubs (who provide the courts) and the Open 4.0 league (who are often deprived of possible “subs” from their Open 3.5 teams.)

Any changes will be carefully considered. Details on changes, if any, will be announced this fall.

League play nights during 2008–2009 were as follows:

Mondays, Open 2.5 (7 teams) / 50+ (7 teams)

Tuesdays, Open 5.5 (11 teams) / Women’s 2.5 (7 teams)

Wednesdays, Open 4.5 (10 teams) / Women’s 3.5 (4 teams)

Thursdays, Open 3.5 (11 teams) / Open 4.0 (11 teams)

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## My Final Issue

*Sarah Lemaire, MSRA News Editor*

This is my last issue as the editor of this newsletter. I am passing the baton on to **Dara-Lynn Pelechatz**, who is enthusiastic about the job and about the game of squash. Before I “retire,” I have a few thank-yous. Sorry if this sounds sort of morbid:

To the MA Squash presidents I served (and who uniformly were the latest submitters to any newsletter—Is that part of the job description?): **Carl Cummings**, **Eric Godes**, and **Sam Magruder**. I hope **Dan Reagan** is nicer to Dara-Lynn.

To **Simon Graham**, **Paul Chastenat**, and **Merrill Martin**, who always offered technical support when some software glitch befuddled me. (And to Simon who sometimes provided transportation and strong opinions as well!)

To **Tom Poor** and **Lenny Bernheimer**, who were my most prolific contributors of photos and articles (doubles! juniors! photos!).

To **Bry Roskoz**, for your good sense, and for dealing with some of the unpleasant situations when I was a wimp.

To the **women of the W2.5 league**: You are a diverse group of women who are the most fun to hang with. Ask **Meredith Johnson**, who I invited to crash our 2008 league social!

To **Paul** and **Wendy Ansdell**, who taught me everything I know about squash (that I didn’t learn at Wellesley several decades ago), with good cheer and unparalleled integrity. Concord-Acton wouldn’t be the wonderful place it is without you. On to the 2009 STT!

To the **women who play at Concord-Acton**: You rock my world! You love to point out all my flaws, the most memorable being that if I’m talking during a match, I’ve stopped focusing. Thanks for all the support and teasing I received over the 14 years since I started playing there.

# Squash Match Scoring

*Dan Reagan, Mass Squash President*

By now you may have heard that the World Squash Federation and US Squash have adopted “PAR-11” as the primary scoring system of the softball singles game. All World and US sanctioned tournaments are now scored this way, and US Collegiate and Junior programs have adopted this system.

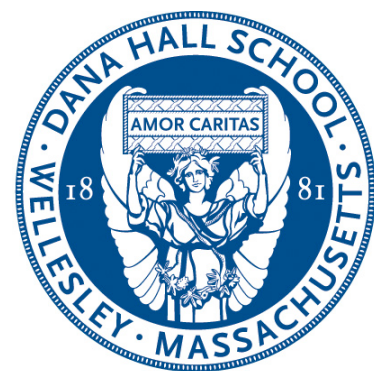
PAR-11 is different from HI-HO-9, the system most of us have been using and which has been the primary system in the US since the 1980s. PAR-11 is played “point a rally” to 11 or higher, requiring the winner to win by 2 points. HI-HO-9 is played “hand-in, hand-out” to 9 points, with the option at 8-all to play to either 9 or 10 points. HI-HO-9 was the system used in the MA Squash leagues and state singles tournament this past season.

While PAR-11 is now the primary scoring system, the WSF and US Squash will still sanction HI-HO-9 as an alternate/acceptable scoring system for league and club play as desired locally. Furthermore, the US Squash system that captures player’s scores for rating and ranking purposes will be able to capture scores using either system. What this means is that the decision which system to use will be up to local tournament directors, league officials, or individuals playing their own games. Notwithstanding that, the WSF and US Squash made the change to PAR-11 by unanimous board votes for a number of good reasons.

Given all that, what should you or MA Squash do? Stick with what you/we know and are comfortable with, or go with the new system? This will be discussed carefully this summer by the MA Squash board and its league and tournament coordinators, because we need decide what do to for the 2009-2010 leagues and 2010 state tournaments. Already there is talk of a possible “PAR-11 test league” (or something similar) to occur this summer, to have players play each other using the new format, and get some feedback based on actual match play.

The MA Squash board, league and tournament directors are interested in getting your inputs, especially if you have tried playing under both formats. Our contact details can be found under the Executive Board link on the MA Squash website. Already a lot of feedback has been received, some of it in favor of the PAR-11 system, but a lot of it against PAR-11. A nagging question has been “Would the feedback be different if coming from people who have tried playing using PAR-11?” The two systems are clearly different and reward slightly different strengths. The most convincing feedback would be from those of you who have tried both formats. So we encourage you to try PAR-11. And try PAR-13 or PAR-15 if you like... to mix it up a bit and see if that might be attractive. Try out the PAR vs. HI-HO systems for yourself, come to your own informed decision, and then let us know!

# Summer Squash Camp at Dana Hall



Dana Hall School is pleased to introduce its new Squash and Tennis Camp at its campus in Wellesley, Mass. Campers will enjoy days full of squash, tennis and swimming as they develop new skills, gain self confidence and have fun! The camp focuses on improving strokes and skills in the morning, and offers an afternoon of varying styles of match play. Free swim and a nutritional lunch provided by the Dana Hall Dining Center fill out each day. Each week-long session concludes with a tournament that will showcase campers' efforts and new skills.

## Staff

Squash and Tennis Camp director Wendy Berry currently is the Head Squash Coach and an Assistant Professor at Wellesley College. She is a highly qualified racket sports coach with a passion for working with squash and tennis players at all levels, in individual and group settings, to assist them in realizing their potential. Previously she was a club pro at the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, Pa. and the Director of two summer squash camps held at Franklin & Marshall College.

Support staff will provide guidance and individualized attention to each camper throughout the day. The staff will ensure safety as campers participate in activities. Counselors are at least 18-years-old and have a background in squash and/or tennis.

## Location and Facilities

Dana Hall School is minutes away from Wellesley Center, and features five outdoor tennis courts and four indoor squash courts. The squash courts are located in The Shipley Center, the School's state-of-the-art fully airconditioned athletics facility, home to the school's gymnasium, fitness center and more. Campers will utilize the tennis and squash courts, as well as the 6,589-square foot aquatics center which contains a stunning 25-yard, six-lane pool designed for recreational and competitive swimming.

## Program Highlights

- Two hours of both squash and tennis instruction per day
- Introduction to proper stretching and conditioning
- Exposure to different styles of competitive play
- Daily free swim
- Nutritional lunch served in the Dana Hall Dining Center
- Tournament play on the last day of each session

## Campers

The Squash and Tennis Camp is open to boys and girls ages 8-14 of varying skill levels. Campers will be placed in groups based on their skill level and experience. Campers are asked to bring their own squash and tennis equipment; a limited number of racquets are available for use. If a camper needs to borrow a piece of equipment, please contact Guida Estrela at (781) 489-1900 prior to the beginning of each session.

## Sessions

The Dana Hall Squash and Tennis Camp will run six, one-week sessions beginning June 22. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Session I: June 22 - 26

Session II: June 29 - July 3

Session III: July 6 - 10

Session IV: July 13 - 17

Session V: July 20 - 24

Session VI: July 27 - 31

Registration forms can be found at [www.danahall.org](http://www.danahall.org) under Camps & Programs.

Questions?

Please contact Guida Estrela at (781) 489-1900 or [camps@danahall.org](mailto:camps@danahall.org).





# State Singles Champions and Finalists



45+: Will Bigelow (R) def. Tyler Hindermann...(3-1)



70+: Douglass Lee (R) def. Peter Papesch...(3-0)



Women's 4.5+: Hope Prockop (L) def. Fernanda Rocha...(3-0)



Open 5.5: Dan Sharplin (R) def. Dan Roberts...(3-1)



Open 2.5: Cel Kulasekaran (R) def. Pavan Mokkarala...(3-2)



55+: Robert Loring (R) def. Jose Ferrao...(3-1)



Women's 2.5: Kaitlin Yaremchuk def. Kerry Wellington...(3-0)



60+: Stephen Steinberg (L) def. Sam Magruder...(3-2)

# State Singles Champions and Finalists



40+: **Tyler Hindermann (R)** def. Rachid Regragui...(3-2)



35+: **Ali Merchant (L)** def. Tyler Hindermann...(3-0)



Women's 3.5: **Bry Roskoz (L)** def. Kara Kardon...(3-2)



Open 4.5: **Ryan Mullaney (R)** def. Brian Marsden...(3-2)



Open 4.0: **Chris Kane (R)** def. Dan Reagan...(3-1)



Open 3.5: **Mac Caplan (L)** def. Max Kardon...(3-0)



50+: **Will Bigelow (R)** def. Bill Kaplan...(3-0)



Women's 40+: **Hope Prockop (L)** def. Wendy Ansdell...(3-0)



# League Finals



W2.5 league champs: Cambridge Athletic Club: L-R: Sue Hill, Allison Rottkamp, Bernadette Dixon, Michelle da Silva, Maria Mayorga, Rachel Myers



W2.5 league finalists: BSC-Waltham: L-R: Dara-Lynn Pelechatz, Kerry Wellington, Susan Mygatt, Lisa Putukian, Lucy Bradley, Debbie Carr



W3.5 league finals: Bottom row (L to R): Heather Sullivan, Margo Grossberg, Betsy Hargreaves, Amanda Knappman, Bry Roskoz. Top row (L to R): Pam Larson, Melissa Roth, Sabrina Davies, Kara Kardon, Anna Bullard, Suzy Schwartz, Beth Collins, Liz Young



O4.5 league champs: University Club: L-R: Ryan Mullaney, Gerry Kirschner, Margaret Gerety, Todd Basnight, Amrit Kanwal, Andrew Goldfarb



O4.5 league finalists: Union Boat Club: L-R: Josh Greenhill, Mike McElroy, John Gates, Alex McFerran, Jim Luchars, Forgan McIntosh

# The Killer Bees, 50 Years Young

by Michelle Gilbert

“At fifty, we’re just trying to survive,” said Mike MacDonald, the Boston Racquet Club’s (BRC) 50+ Squash coach, better known as “Big Mac” or “El Capitan,” by his team members. However, the words “just trying to survive,” seem slightly modest for a man who, just days after knee surgery, was making plans to compete in the Pan Mass Challenge in August. Rather, it seems that MacDonald still possesses the drive he once had in college when he first learned how to play squash.

While attending Boston College, it was MacDonald’s roommate who showed him the ropes of squash. Their love for the game soon outgrew their desire to stay in class. MacDonald’s roommate would come to his classroom, knock on the door, and tell the professor that MacDonald needed to report to the Dean’s office. Fearing urgency the professor would let him go every time. “I would just leave,” MacDonald said. “We’d walk down to the field, play squash for a few hours, go out that night for some drinks, and then wake up in the morning to play some more.”



Left to right: Rip Hastings, Mike Loucks, Mike Macdonald, Jack Troy, Rich Murphy, Dick Drury, Jackie Fitzwater (BRC staff), Mike Sceery, Christine Young, Emily Liskow (BRC staff), Jack Dane, Digger Donahue

Beer and squash, is a seemingly hand-in-hand pair for MacDonald still, as his team, “The Killer Bees,” provides beer for their opponents after every home game. But one must not confuse their lax demeanor with passiveness. “We’re just about all type-A players,” cut in Whitney Boucher aka “Zip.” MacDonald agreed, “Yes, very competitive players, but very unpretentious. If you had an ego on this team you would be immediately crushed,” he said.

Instead of ego, it is the humble demeanor possessed by each player that has bonded the team together. Their strong camaraderie has made them unique from the other six teams in the league. Aside from matches and weekly round-robin practice sessions, the team genuinely enjoys just hanging out.

“Last summer,” said MacDonald, “Digger Donahue (aka “Digger”) has a 42’ Hinckley. All the guys met at the Scituate Yacht Club around seven am and boated over to my house for a day of competition. We played tennis, golf, horse shoes, and basketball. [We] just competed all day long.” They ended the night with a lobster cook out, some drinks, and cigars on the porch as the moon came up. “Cigars on the porch, that was great baby,” MacDonald said.

And at the end of every season, win or lose, the team celebrates by going out to dinner. They laugh about the good times and begin planning for next season. The group decides together, which additions to the team will fit into the chemistry they have already established. And once that lucky player is chosen, they too will be crowned with one of “El Capitan’s” signature nick names such as Digger, Zip, the Quite One, Baby Huey, Tommy Boy the Lady Killer, and more.

On Monday, March 16th, the Killer Bees competed in their fourteenth league championship game and won the title. MacDonald will be happy to add another plaque to their collection, a memorandum of their hard work and good times had. They have now won nine out of the last fourteen championships. MacDonald said, “It’s just a great game, and a sport we all love.”

*Editor’s note: Michelle Gilbert is a journalism intern at the Boston Racquet Club. For info on this team’s most recent championship, see p. 12.*



# 2009 State Softball Doubles Champions Concord-Acton Squash Club



**Open 5.5 Final: Dan Roberts & Greg Crane (champions) vs.  
Scott Kennedy & Gifford Sommerkamp (runners up)**



**Open 4.5 Final; Mark Dickenson & Szilvi Szombati vs. Tim Watkins & Belkys Velez  
(Match postponed due to injury)**



# Adult Leagues: End-of-Season Reports

## Women's 3.5

*Bry Roskoz, League Chair*

Despite a late season effort by Betsy's Boasts to dethrone the season-long first place team, Lisa's Lets secured their trophy with a 2-1 win in the finals. Congratulations to the winning team of **Lisa Evans, Bry Roskoz, Suzy Schwartz** and **Liz Young**.

The league season featured great squash as well as a lot of fun. As such, we want to recognize those who have stood out in this year's league play...

- Most Improved: **Liz Young**
- Rookie of the Year: **Melissa Roth**
- Best Sportsmanship: (tie) **Amanda Knappman, Pam Larson**

... as well as other aspects of the game...

- "Big Papi Hardest Hitter" Award: **Liz Brecht** (with special mention to **Sabrina Huang**)
- "Monica Seles Grunt" Award: **Sabrina Davies**
- "The Zen Game" Award: **Beth Collins**
- "Always to 5 Games" Award: **Sarah Coffin**
- "If You Don't Play Well, At Least Wear a Cute Outfit" Award: **Bry Roskoz**
- "When's the Cocktail?" Award: **Betsy Hargreaves**
- "Energizer Bunny II" Award: **Heather Sullivan**

Lastly, a special thank you to the team captains—**Lisa Evans, Margo Grossberg, Betsy Hargreaves** and **Kara Kardon**—for making this a great season of squash!

## Women's 2.5

*Sarah Lemaire, League Chair*

The Women's 2.5 league ended with a bang, with **Maria Mayorga's** Cambridge Athletic Club team defeating BSC-Waltham for the league championship at BSC. Both teams won their semi-final matches, CAC over Concord-Acton 3-1, and BSC over SquashBusters in a close match (86-80 in points).

In the final, **Debbie Carr** was the lone winner (over **Rachel Myers**) for BSC-Waltham, while **Allison Rottkamp, Bernadette Dixon**, and **Michelle da Silva** won their individual matches.

It's been a great year in the W2.5 league, with a exciting new crop of young, athletic players from Tennis & Racquet, and some top-notch former college players showing us how it's done. Neither **Allison Rottkamp** nor league champion **Kaitlin Yaremchuk** are ranked this year because they didn't qualify, but both players were undefeated in league and tournament play and will be promoted to the W3.5 league next year.

Thanks to my captains, who didn't complain once about all the e-mail I sent them, and who finally learned how to use the US Squash software to record and confirm matches. (Well, most of them...) A toast to you: **Susan Mygatt, Lisa Putukian, Maria Mayorga, Betsy Johnson, TonTon Russell, Beth Robinowitz, Dominique Farinaux-Dumas**, and last, but not least, my own captain and friend **Coleen "Put me in coach" Phillimore**. Thanks also to **Terri Sojot** and **Phoebe Slanetz** for sitting in as captain in a pinch.

## Open 5.5

*Chris Lang, League Chair*

The 5.5 season was jam-packed with high-level action, stiff competition, and a few pints thrown in for good measure, which is always something we all look forward to after duking it out in "the ring."

We welcomed a new addition to the roster this year. Cross Courts in Natick fielded a fairly strong team with nothing but room to improve. Word on the street is they will clearly be in contention for next year's title, as several very strong players have joined their ranks and have already begun training regimens.

All in all it was another great year for the 5.5 league. **Preston Quick** and the Union Boat Club succeeded in dethroning **Pat Malloy's** University Club team, laying claim to the 5.5 League Champ title.

On a somber note, we will be losing the Concord-Acton team from the line-up. They're a fantastic group of guys, whom we'll all miss knocking it around with, sharing war stories, and tossing a few back with. I look forward to next season!

## Open 4.5

*Gerry Kirshner, League Chair*

Sadness. League has ended for another year. No more weekly battles with friends from other clubs for bragging rights and beers, at least not for a few months. Until the fall, we will have to content ourselves with looking back to the season that was. And it was a great one! Once again, it was a great mix of people and personalities and playing styles; we had a number of new faces joining the many 4.5 stalwarts that continue to play in the league. After the dust settled, UClub's team of **Margaret Gerety, Ryan Mullaney, Todd Basnight, Gerry Kirschner, Jon Hyett, Amrit Kanwal**, and **Bill Keravouri** once again captured regular season and playoff honors for the second year in a row. Second place went to the always-tough Union Boat Club team, with BRC and Cross Courts rounding out the top four. Just a bit behind in standings, but not competitiveness, were Maugus, BSC-Allston, T&R, MIT, Concord-Acton, and 4.5 newcomer Cambridge Athletic Club. Cambridge Athletic made a statement that they belong in the 4.5 league—despite finishing with an overall 1-13 team record, CAC hung in there every week and made every match competitive. It was CAC's goal to overtake MIT by season's end—they made a good charge at it with their season ending win over T&R! Most improved team honors have to go to Cross Courts on the strength of their movement from 9th last year to 4th this year. Great job, Cross Courts!

There were many great stories all across the season, but I'll only relay one here. Finals night was UBC coming to UClub for all the marbles. UBC had been the only team to beat UClub all year, and everyone knew it would be a close match. UBC #1 **Alex McFerran** was playing some of the best squash of the season and was going up against the only #1 to make it through the regular season undefeated—UClub's **Margaret Gerety**. My pre-match wagering gave Alex a slight advantage in this one. Las Vegas oddsmakers were expecting the UClub's wonderkid **Ryan Mullaney** to edge out **John David Gates** at #2 and UClub's #3 **Todd Basnight** to squeak out a win against the super-fit **Jim**

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

**Luchars.** This brought all the pressure onto the #4 players to determine the winner. UClub team captain **Amrit Kanwal** thought he had things all set at #4, with **Jon Hyett** ready to act as backup in case I could not make it back from New York in time. Amrit decided to start enjoying the evening a bit earlier than the rest of us, so by match time, he was already a 3 beers ahead of the rest of us. Next time, he may want to wait a bit before hitting the suds! About 6:45, he finally checked his phone to find out I'm stuck on the runway in LaGuardia and Jon is violently ill, at which point he frantically begins downing coffee and soup in an effort to sober up for a potentially deciding match. The actual outcome was not nearly as entertaining as seeing Amrit's efforts to get match ready—I made it to the UClub just as the Basnight / Luchars match was ending, and we never got to see how successful Amrit's sobering up efforts were.

My thanks to all the captains for helping to make the league run smoothly all year—**Amrit Kanwal, Dan Zelman, David Kohn, Desmond Jacas / Ian Cooper / Drew Jones, Doug Carr, Forgan McIntosh / Josh Greenhill, Jan Kansky, Joe McManus, Nick Nevin and Tom Bu**— you guys were great!

Finally, a few individual honors:

#1 gun: **Margaret Gerety:** Margaret was the only #1 player to go through the regular season undefeated, and her only loss all season was in the playoffs to Cross Courts' **Rich Schafer** (Rich pulling this one out 10-9 in the 5th!)

9-1 Club: UClub's **Amrit Kanwal**

8-1 Club: UClub's **Ryan Mullaney**

10-2 Club: Maugus' **Mark Dickenson**, UBC's **Alex McFerran**, UClub's **Todd Basnight**

The remaining players posting a 75% or better record: Cross Courts' **Joe McManus** (12-3), UBC's **John David Gates** (6-2), UClub's **Gerry Kirschner** (6-2), UClub's **Jon Hyett** (5-1), BRC's **Tom Bu** (4-1).

Maximal efficiency: **Jon Hyett**, winning 62% of points played. Just behind at 61% were **Amrit Kanwal** and **Alex McFerran**. I wish I had a stopwatch on these guys when they played!

Dedication to the league—this is hard to believe—five players played every match this season! We owe these guys a round of applause for their efforts: BSC's **Ken Leng** and **Dan Zelman**, Cross Courts' **Rich Schafer**, MIT's **Jan Kansky** and Maugus' **Dave Heather**. Not far behind was BSC's **Tim Watkins** (13 out of 14 weeks played), BRC's **Brian Marsden** and **Josh Howland**, Cambridge's **Ian Cooper** and Concord-Acton's **Dave Phillimore**, all with 12 out of 14 weeks played!

Thanks to everyone for a great 4.5 season, and I look forward to seeing you next year!

## Open 4.0

*Rip Hastings, League Chair*

This was an exciting season in the 4.0 League, with 11 teams and 107 men, women and children taking part. **BSC-Waltham** (14-1) rolled over the rest of the league, losing only 10 individual matches for the entire regular season. **BRC** was a strong second (11-3). **MIT** and **T&R** filled out the top four with the same 9-5 match record, advantage to MIT on individual wins. But competition was fierce for the four play-off spots all

the way until the last week of the season, when **T&R** beat out **Cross Courts** for the fourth and final spot by winning two impressive come-back matches (**Justin Segalini** and **Larry Wenglin** were both down 1-2) to take MIT 4-1.

Three individuals dominated the regular season: Milton's **Chris Kane**, this year's Open 4.0 Singles Champion, with 9 regular season wins at the no. 1 spot, MIT's **Ben Warfield**, with 10, and Waltham's **Drew Holman**, undefeated with 11 wins at no. 1. But in the league championship finals, played at Waltham, it was bench strength that gave **BRC** the victory over **BSC-Waltham**. Each team was missing their no. 1 player, but both had great depth and experience. Waltham had qualified 8 players for the post-season; BRC 7 ... and both teams were showing 50+ players as half their finals roster. In the end, it was **Ken Weber** for BRC who found an extra gear, out-reaching and out-running **Belkys Vélez** for a grueling 3-1 win at no. 4, to give BRC the title 4-1 over the best team in the league.

Hats off to BSC-Waltham for running away with the regular season, and to BRC for pulling out a championship win at the end. Thanks to all the captains, co-captains and other players ... I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

## Open 3.5

*Merrill Martin, League Chair*

For what we may lack in racquet skills, footwork and fitness we make up for with enthusiasm, determination and a touch of delusion.

Yes, we're 3.5 players. Some are on their way to higher skill levels and some of us thrilled to be here. Throughout the season, there were good, competitive matches, I often heard from captains that the match scores did not represent how close the match really was.

This year, the top 4 of 11 teams in the league went on to the playoffs. BSC-Waltham and T&R took their fight for a play-off slot to the last match, with Waltham taking the slot with a win percentage of 64% over T&R's 61%. The semifinal matchups were BRC vs. BSC Waltham and Cross Courts vs. Cambridge. Both BRC and Cross Courts, who had battled back and fourth throughout the season for the #1 spot, won the semi-final matches and faced each other in the finals on March 19 at BRC.

## The Final

BRC won the first two matches (#3 and #4) 3-0 with one of the games resulting in a bagel (9-0). Some quick math by the Cross Courts captain (me) did not inspire a great deal of hope. The only way to win now is on points and this was not likely with that bagel hanging over our heads. Yves Schabes (CC) takes on Dan Cullaty (BRC) at #2 and Stuart Chandler (CC) plays Mike Dougherty (BRC) at #1. Yves and Stuart win game 1, but the BRC fans remain confident. In game 2, Dan hurts his ankle but continues to play and loses game 2 while Stuart beats Mike in a surprising upset 9-0. Bagel cancels bagel! Is that hope I'm feeling? Do I detect a feeling of suspense at the BRC home courts?

Yves continues to sadistically run the hurt Dan around the court in game 3, but Mike decides enough is enough and

*(continued on next page)*

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

takes game 3 from Stuart in a 9-5 win that determines the League outcome.

BRC is this year's League Champion! *Congratulations!*

Over 126 of us comprised the Open 3.5 League this year on 11 teams to play between 15 and 16 regular season matches. Our teams and captains were:

Boston Racquet Club - **Michael Belliveau**  
Boston Sports Club (Alston) - **Lisa Evans**  
Boston Sports Club (Waltham) - **Julian Rawle**  
Cambridge Athletic Club - **Harold Helson**  
Concord Acton Squash Club - **Brian Gourlie**  
Cross Courts Squash & Fitness - **Merrill Martin**  
Longfellow Club - **Chris Lafarge**  
MIT - **Richard Wynne**  
Newton Squash & Tennis - **Jeff Kolodney**  
Tennis & Racquet Club - **Amanda Knappman**  
Union Boat Club - **Jamie McIntyre**

I would like to thank each captain and all of the players that made this past season so much fun. I do hope all of the players will come back next season and participate in the 3.5 league. I would like to say goodbye to departing captains **Jamie McIntyre** (UBC) and **Amanda Knappman** (T&R) and hope that their replacements will be as enthusiastic.

## Open 2.5

*Carl Cummings, Chair*

Boston Racquet Club ran through the Open 2.5 League like the 2007 Patriots ran through the NFL but, unfortunately for BRC, the parallels extended to the playoff finals, where Andover Racquets Club played the role of the Giants in Super Bowl LXIII, winning the championship and handing BRC its only defeat of the season in the process.

It was a cozy league, with only seven teams, but a committed one in which everyone played right to the end, with the fewest number of defaults in recent memory. BRC and Andover, the only teams who were over .500, broke away from the pack but the results didn't adequately reflect the competitiveness of the matches, many of which were closely contested (including one flat-out tie, FoMaMA at Newton Squash on February 9th: 2 matches, 7 games and 87 points each).

That BRC and Andover should meet in the finals was expected. That Andover would win was not, though the upset was not exactly "Hoosiers" level. BRC certainly looked the favorite, having defeated Andover in both regular season meetings but both matches were decided on games and while BRC had suffered only seven individual match losses all season, four of those had come at the hands (racquets) of Andover.

The finals contrasted a BRC team that was generally younger and more athletic with an Andover team that was more experienced and heavier (meaning greater gravitas, of course). In the #3 match (in which, as it happened, BRC did not have an age advantage and Andover did not have a weight advantage), **Ted Jenkins** out-jostled **Austin Groome**, 5, 2, 3, to give Andover the first victory. **Mason Gregory** evened things for BRC, defeating **Robert Saunders**, 10-8, 2, (7), 4, at #4. **Pavan Mokkrala** put BRC ahead by winning the #1 match in straight but hard-fought games with **Gene Tyrrell**, 10-9, 7, 6. This left everyone

free to watch the conclusion of the #2 match, where BRC's **Cel Kulasekaran** and Andover's **Manoj Munjal** had split the first two games, the first 10-9 for Kulasekaran and the second 9-4 for Munjal. The third game was played well above the 2.5 level and went to the wire. Kulasekaran's stride and reach enabled him to get to almost everything while Munjal seemed not to have to get to everything because he was so often already there. Each player had apparent chances to win only to be stymied by the other but Munjal's more efficient game ultimately prevailed, 10-9, and left him, as well, with a bit more in the tank for the next game, which he also won, 9-2, to close out the match.

That left the teams, predictably, with 2 matches and 7 games each but Andover had amassed 108 points to BRC's 98, which gave them the championship.

**50+**

*Sam Magruder, League Chair*

For the third consecutive year, **Mike MacDonald**'s Boston Racquet Club won the Mass Squash 50+ league championship. Four teams qualified for the playoffs. Concord-Acton just held off Cross Courts for the second seed and Maugus took the fourth seed.

The semi-finals were stretched out over two weeks by a major snowstorm. Cross Courts went to Concord-Acton for a very competitive match. While **Will Bigelow** extended his undefeated streak over **John Connolly** at #1 in three games, every other match went to five games, but all were won by Cross Courts. **Peter Goodall** went up two love, then dropped two and finally won the fifth game over **Roger Jones** at #2. **Paul White** won the first games, then lost two in a row, before taking charge in the last two games over **Phil Brewer**. In the battle of captains, **Larry Hargreaves** spotted **Kevin Hollister** a 2-1 lead, before squeaking out the fourth game and then winning the fifth. The other semifinal was much closer than the regular season match-ups, but BRC was able to hold off a determined Maugus team, tied 2-2 but 10-7 in games. The top of the ladder went to Maugus as **Mark Dickenson** beat **Zip Boucher** in five and **Martin Deale** matched that score over **Mike Loucks**. **Rip Hastings** broke **Nana Poku**'s five match winning streak with a decisive 3-0 win. At #4, **Ken Weber** ran down Captain **Keith Munsell** by 3-1.

This set up a brand-new finals match-up of BRC versus Cross Courts. **Peter Goodall** gave **Zip Boucher** everything he could handle, but Zip made an amazing recovery from down 11-6 in the fifth to take the final game 15-13. The other early match was **Ken Weber** against **Dennis Philbin**. Ken won the first two games, but the mounting handicap took its toll in the third. Ken erased the handicap deficit by 8-8 in the fourth and closed it out. **Mike Loucks** played the #3 spot against **Larry Hargreaves**, in a battle of alternating games. Larry would go up one, Mike would tie it. The pattern broke in the fifth with Mike taking the match-deciding win. The last match featured **Rip Hastings** against **Paul White**. White had lost the regular season match, but this time he played better and won the lone point to avert the sweep.

The challenge has been thrown down. How to stop the juggernaut out of 100 Summer Street next year?

Spring 2009 Mass Squash News 11



# 2009 Massachusetts State Junior Championships

by Mike Connor

The 2009 Massachusetts State Juniors—our true home tournament, open only to juniors who call New England home (Red Sox country, New Haven north)—was a true success.

190 girls and boys, ages 8 to 18, took the courts at the spectacular SquashBusters facility in Roxbury, MA during the weekend beginning Friday, March 13. Over 370 matches were played. From Friday to Sunday, the SquashBusters' eight courts buzzed with non-stop competition. The result: great squash, lots of fun, and wall-to-wall sportsmanship.

The Mass Junior Squash Committee is pleased to record the following match results.

## Boys Under 11

The Boys U11 matches highlighted the potential of Mass Junior Squash. 11 competitors entered this draw.

- Quick-handed **Reg Anderson** took the first-place hardware over **James Bell** in four spirited games <9,5,(8),6>
- **Jack Bell** secured third place over **Cole Koepfel** in three great games <8,3,2>
- **Alex Kurtin** edged **Lincoln Sung** in three for the Consolation <4,5,10>
- **Marco Rodriguez** took home the Plate in four games over **David Rubin** <5,(9),3,8>

## Boys Under 13

The competitors in the Boys U13 are getting game! 24 competitors entered this draw.

- Hard-charging **Timmy Brownell** won a tough five-game match over **Stephen Monrad** in the finals <7,10,(10),(8),10>
- **Carson Spahr** bested **Cody Cortes** to take third place <9,6,(10),9>
- **Dylan Kachur** took three games from **Caldwell Perkins** to claim the Classic Plate (fifth place) <3,4,9>
- **Charles Woodworth** earned a win over **Louis Feingold** in the Consolation final <0,6,4>
- **Frank Melo** hung tough to edge **Aaron Cross** in four games to take the Plate final <9,5,(4),9>

## Boys Under 15

The boys in the U15 truly got game. This was the deepest draw, sporting 42 competitors.

- The Williamstown contingent aced the draw. Top-seeded **Benjamin Krant** aced #2 seed **Derek Buffum** <10,9,7>
- **Tom Dils** (also from Williamstown) gained third over **Will McBrian** <10, 2, 7>
- **Tripp Kaelin** earned fifth over **Charlie Blasberg** in the classic plate <3,6,7>
- **William Gertler** took the consolation over **Peter Locke** in four <6,9,(7),5>
- **Tyler Billman** muscled through a five-game Plate final over **David Pham** <18,(7),7,(3),9>

## Boys Under 17

This is the division where the epic battles begin. 26 contestants took the courts in the Boys U17.

- Rising star **Derek Chilvers** bested tough and talented **Conor McClintock** in the finals <4,6,4>
- **Liam Quinn** hung tough for five games to cop third over #1 seed **Scott DeSantis** <(6),5,(13),5,5>
- **Max Kachur** gained victory over **Toby Koekkoek** in four in the classic plate <6,1,(6),4>
- **Peter Mack** jumped to the consolation win over **Bernie St. Vil** in three <6,6,6>
- **Joel Gonzalez** aced the plate trophy from **Jhonathan Guerra** <8,4,7>

## Boys Under 19

This is the division with jaw-dropping squash. 15 competitors graced this draw.

- **Taylor Foehl** tipped Trinity-bound **Greg Crane** in an epic (and well watched, the crowd was ten deep) finals <(9),8,(10),4,7>
- **Tony Zou** powered to third over **Asa Welty** in three <4,8,4>
- **John Nimmo** and **Chris Ivins** played a spirited bout (the very last match of the tourney!), with John gaining a tough consolation victory in four <(7),10,6,3>
- **William Hearty** took the plate <default>

## Girls Under 11

The Girls U11 matches equally highlighted the great potential of Mass juniors. Four competitors entered this round robin.

- First, **Maddie Chai**
- Second, **Grace Connor**
- Third, **Emily Woodworth**
- Fourth, **Lyle Prockop**

# 2009 Massachusetts State Junior Championships

*(Continued from previous page)*

## Girls Under 13

The Girls Under 13 are getting game (wait, did I say this before?). 13 competitors entered this draw.

- #1 seed **Samantha Chai** bested #2 seed **Sarah Bell** in the finals <6,4,10>
- **Anne Blasberg** secured third place in three games <4,7,3> with **Molly Prockop** finishing fourth.
- **Tiana Grant** secured the consolation win over **Gabriela Rodriguez** <4,8,5>
- **Delaney Sullivan** captured the plate with a three game besting of **Marina Wynne** <4,6,6>

## Girls Under 15

The Girls U15 draw was deep, the second largest division in the tournament. 32 competitors took the courts.

- Talented **Caroline Monrad** nicked Vermonter (and nationally acclaimed) **Addie Fulton** in five despite losing the first two games <(5),(5),5,9,8>
- #3 seed **Zoe Carey** prevailed over fourth seed **Dana Rapisarda** for third place <5,3,11>
- **Haley Connor** edged **Lillie Simourian** for the classic plate <5,8,10>. Lillie and Haley wound up toe-to-toe on four matches this season, including matches at the Heights Casino and the Mass State Open
- **Catherine Walsh** tipped **Charlotte Ross** to take the consolation round <6,2,10>
- **Amy Sanchez** claimed the plate over **Deanna Pettway** <6,6,5>

## Girls Under 17

The Girls Under 17 division witnessed especially close, well-played matches. 16 competitors rounded out this division.

- Tabor star **Ashley Brooks** bested Milton Academy star **Kate Nimmo** in four to take first place <8,(6),7,7>
- Connecticut's **Saskia Pownall-Gray** claimed third from **Bianca Vega** in three games <9,6,7>
- **Sofia Thierry** trumped **Jennifer Huynh** to win the classic plate <7,2,(9),5>
- **Kadeneysse Ramize** went five to garner the consolation hardware over **Hailey Newbound** <8, 10,(7),(4),5>
- **Mikaela Johnson** tipped **Alexandra Spiliakos** to bring home the plate <(9),6,7,4>

## Girls Under 19

Some of the best squash players in Massachusetts are found in the GU19 division. 6 competitors completed a round robin.

- First, **Dori Rahbar**
- Second, **Serena Fagan**
- Third, **Elizabeth Tapley**
- Fourth, **Audrey Guerrero**
- Fifth, **Hoia Tran**
- Sixth, **Hafsa Chaudhry**

Mass Squash makes a special effort to deliver high-quality tournaments. Players received terrific dry-fit shirts. The first, second, classic plate, consolation, and plate winners in each division received impressive trophies. The food was ample and delicious. Each player enjoyed the competition, camaraderie, and chance to benchmark themselves against the juniors they will play again and again as they age up through the ranks. A competition of this quality and scale reflects the contributions and efforts of its volunteer support.

Thanks in Mass Squash always begin with **Tom Poor**, who simply sets the standard for Mass Junior Squash. He also logged entries for this tourney, built the draws, addressed logistics, coordinated with US Squash, designed and ordered the tournament shirts, and made sure the tournament committee was ready and able to deliver a quality event—no small tasks.

Thanks to SquashBusters for making this tournament a reality. Special thanks to SquashBusters Executive Director **Teresa Soares-Pena** for sharing your terrific facility and for keeping the SquashBusters program an enduring part of Mass Junior Squash. Thanks to all the SquashBusters leaders—Jennifer, Doug, Luke, Dan, and Matt—for welcoming and supporting every player.

Special thanks to **Chris Spahr**, who crafted the court schedule and admirably kept the courts on time, **Libby McClintock**, who made sure all were well fed (as always), and **Steven Columbia**, who effectively multi-tasked throughout the tournament.

One final request: If you're a Mass Junior Squash parent, whether it's your son's or daughter's first tourney or the one that secures their national ranking, join us next year in planning and delivering at least one Mass Junior tournament. It's a lot of fun. We appreciate everyone's sportsmanship, efforts, and support.

Here's to MJC 2010! For the Mass Junior Squash Committee

—**Michael Connor, Suzy Schwartz, Bill Nimmo**

# 2009 Massachusetts State Junior Championships



BU 11: Champion - Reg Anderson; Finalist - James Bell



GU 11: Finalist - Grace Connor; Champion - Madeleine Chai



GU 19: Finalist - Serena Fagan; Champion - Dori Rahbar



BU 17: Finalist - Conor McClintock; Champion - Derek Chilvers



BU 13: Champion - Timmy Brownell; Finalist - Stephen Monrad



GU13: Champion - Samantha Chai; Finalist - Sarah Bell



BU 19: Champion - Taylor Foehl; Finalist - Greg Crane



GU 15: Finalist - Addie Fulton; Champion - Caroline Monrad



# 2008-2009 Mass Squash Junior Squash Season

*Libby McClintock. Mass Squash Junior Committee*

The Mass Squash Junior Squash had another successful season, including five tournaments, a growing Junior League, and the Junior Awards Ceremony. Our season opened up in November with the first Deerfield Junior Open, which was held at Deerfield Academy's beautiful new squash facility. In December, we held our second Dana Hall/Cross Courts Junior Open at the Dana Hall School, Wellesley and Cross Courts and Fitness, Natick. Groton School was the site of the Mass Junior Open in January, which attracted juniors from as far away as Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Canada. Two weeks later we hosted with US Squash our third annual Millet Junior Championships at the Murr Center, Harvard University. This tournament was one of four Junior Championship Tour (JCT) events that qualify juniors for the Junior USA Team, Can-Am Challenge, and Nationals. Our junior tournament season ended with the Mass State Championships, held at the SquashBusters facility at Northeastern University. This year, US Squash implemented the scoring system of PAR 11, which all of our tournaments incorporated. While there were some initial complaints and confusion, all the juniors seemed to settle into the new scoring system. The results for all of our tournaments can be found on the US Squash website ([www.us-squash.org](http://www.us-squash.org)) under Junior Tournaments.

The Junior League had a banner year of participation and enthusiasm at three venues, the Murr Center, Harvard, for elementary through middle school juniors and Dana Hall School and Belmont Hill School, for the high school players. Under the direction of Mass Squash Junior Committee member, Azi Djazani, the program ran a total of ten Sunday sessions from October through April, and had over 90 participants who ranged in ages 7-14, as well as a group of 20 high school players. Sponsored by Mass Squash, Junior League is free and encourages kids to come out and play in a group and competitive setting, which enhances their skills, confidence, and prepares them for tournament play. Azi relies on volunteers to help her and would like to thank the following: Sharon Bradey, Chris and Catherine Spahr, Hamid Benbrahim, Greta Meszoely, Dan Reagan, Beth Gilbert-Bono, Chris Brownell, Libby McClintock, Suzy Schwartz, Mike Connor, Nick Lloyd, Jesse Chai and Tom Poor. She would also like to thank Harvard University, Dana Hall School, and Belmont Hill School for providing the venues. Information on Junior League can be found at: [www.msrajuniors.org](http://www.msrajuniors.org). Azi and her volunteers look forward to another great year in 2009-10!

Every year, the Mass Squash Junior Committee recognizes boy and girl juniors who exemplify improvement and sportsmanship in squash. On May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Mass Squash Annual Meeting, the recipients of Most Improved Awards were Haley Connor, Samantha Chai, and Timmy Brownell. These young juniors have demonstrated hard work and commitment to the sport that has enabled them to perform very well in the tournaments. Both Chai and Brownell won the Mass State Championships in their divisions. Our Sportsmanship Awards went to Roxana Mead, a junior at Middlesex School, and to John Nimmo, a senior at Milton Academy, who will be attending Dartmouth College next fall. These two juniors showed etiquette and sportsmanship off and on the courts throughout the tournament season. The MSRA also awarded a SquashBusters boy and girl a full scholarship to a squash camp for the summer of 2009. The recipients are Kadineyse Ramize, a junior at Madison Park High School, Boston, and Mahmud Jalloh, a sophomore at Learning Prep School, Newton. Kadineyse will attend the Yale Ultimate Squash Camp and Mahmud ("MJ") will attend the Peter Nicol Champions Academy at the Hotchkiss School. We congratulate all of our junior recipients for their hard work, great sportsmanship, and commitment to the sport of squash.

We hope the juniors will play squash this summer and hopefully, attend the numerous local and New England camps and play in the some of the summer tournaments. Information on summer tournaments and squash camps can be found in the "US Squash Magazine", [www.us-squash.org](http://www.us-squash.org), and at the [www.msrajuniors.org](http://www.msrajuniors.org) website.

We look forward to seeing all of our juniors next fall!

# Trouble Ahead: 2009 Massachusetts Hardball Doubles Championships

*Tom Poor*

When **David Palmer** came to Boston in fall 2007 to become the University Club's touring professional, there was little doubt he'd soon step on the doubles court. Those who saw him take that first step knew immediately there was trouble ahead for his future opponents. David is the 2008 British Open champion and has been ranked in the world's top 10 softball players for many years. Naturally, he picked up the doubles game quickly, and with partner **Andrew Slater**, captured the wstate A tournament in five games over the defending champions, **Sandy Tierney & Pat Malloy**. It wasn't easy. After winning the first two games, Sandy & Pat won the next two, mercilessly pounding away at Slater. In the fifth, however, Sandy faltered – understandable as it was his tenth game of the evening. More on that later. Palmer & Slater had to work along the way, defeating **Doug Lifford**, many times former champion & **Jon Hyett** in a four-game quarter, then fellow pros **Chris Spahr & Dan Roberts** in a very tight four-game semi-final. Sandy & Pat had an easier route when **Greg Zaff & Derrick Niederman**, also former champions, had to retire when Derrick pulled a calf muscle. Of note was Zaff & Niederman's quarter-final victory, 15-14 in the fifth over **Ming Tsai & Preston Quick**, a loss which may have affected the entrees at Ming's Blue Ginger restaurant that evening.

As mentioned, Sandy had a long evening, playing for more than three hours, courtesy of a five game final in the 50's against **Tom Poor & John Nimick**. **Sandy & Lenny Bernheimer** linked up last season when Tom, Lenny's partner in national tournaments, had both knees replaced. They chose to defend this year and appeared to be in good shape after a 15-3 rout in the third game gave them a 2-1 lead. However, John took even more balls in the next two games which turned the tide and finally the match in their favor. Poor & Nimick were fortunate to escape first the quarters in five over **Matthew Kozol & Mat Sibble**, then another five game test over **Joe Duffey & Jeff Rodman** in the semis. Sandy & Lenny had a much easier time of it with a semi-final shutout of **Court Chilton & Jon Ross**.

Lenny's evening was only a partial downer, for in the 60s, he and **John Brazilian** cruised to their fourth straight title with a three-game thumping of **Tom Poor & Marty Stocklan**. The winners didn't drop a game the whole tournament, while Tom & Marty had to grind out a five-game semi over Harvard Club's **John Sheldon & Chuck Kelly**. The only five-game match was a quarter-final win by **Dick Whitney & Dave Murphy** over **Mike Keating & Sam Magruder**, outgoing president of Mass Squash.

The Harvard Club had its revenge in the women's event, where pro **Sharon Bradey & Jeannie Blasberg** defeated **Fernanda Rocha & Hope Crosier** in a surprisingly easy three-game semi, and then prevailed in the finals over **Hope Prockop & Sue Greene**, a newcomer to the Boston area, in another five-game final. Jeannie has become an accomplished doubles player, successfully competing earlier this season in the Can-Am Cup and now winning the states. Her prowess also means trouble ahead for husband John on the doubles court.

**Jeannie and son Charlie** are no slouches on the doubles court; they bested **Philip & Marcus Bullen** in the quarters of the Parent-Child tournament before falling in four to **Chris & Carson Spahr** in the next round. The upper half of the draw was very tight. **Tom & Liam Quinn** got by **Bob & Timmy Brownell**, and then had a four-game close quarter-final win over 2007 champions **Matthew & Joel Kozol**. They met the 2008 defending champions, **David & Greg Crane**, in the next round, losing the second game in overtime, winning the fourth in overtime and finally gaining the fifth at 11. Clearly, the sons Greg and Liam were the driving forces in the match which took close to two hours. In the final, the Quinns dropped the first, then won the next three, working 13-year-old Carson as much as possible. Carson, after another year of growth and strength, will be trouble ahead in the 2010 draw.

**Chris Spahr** was not done for the evening as he & **Hope Crosier** played the last match of the Mixed against **Margot Kearney & Pat Malloy**. Margot is an excellent tennis player and has picked up doubles quickly. She and Hope traded shots throughout the match with the men pouncing on any ball left short or not making it cross court. Hope was slightly steadier which proved to be the difference in their five game victory. They had advanced to the final in a three game quarter-final win over **Jeannie Blasberg & Greg Zaff**, then a more difficult conquest of **Hope Prockop & Preston Quick** (ranked #5 on the ISDA mens professional tour). Margot & Pat had a four game close win in the semi-finals over **Fernanda Rocha & Doug Lifford**, a many time Mixed winner with other partners. This was the first year in memory that Doug has not been in the final of some State event.

The C tournament began in March with 23 teams. The top seed went to **Amrit Kanwal**, last year's winner with Jordan Berns, and new partner **Dave Shulman**. They lost in the quarters to **Bill Keravuori & Ed Johnson**—Ed came of age this year in doubles as he reached the finals of the Punter's Cup. Only #3 seeds **Marty Stocklan & Jon Hartnett** survived the quarters. They went down in the semis to Bill & Ed, setting up a final with **Dean Williams & Matt Gibbs**. The latter duo had knocked off #4 **Dave Riccio & Philip Bullen**, then **Andy Plimpton & Jesse Lane** who had dispatched #2 seed **Peter Goodall & Bob Frazier**. Dean & Matt played largely error-free in the finals, which more than offset Keravuori's shots, winning the match in four.

The largest draw of the States was the B—34 teams. Odds-on betting, however, was on the #3 seed, **Glenn Prichett & Josh Greenhill** (2005 champ with Nick Barquin). **Joe Cortes & Scott Beebe** were seeded #1 on the strength of previous B state titles with different partners. As the tournament progressed, the surprise advancers were **John Frantzis & Chris Lutes**. Chris doesn't play much, and John appears hobbled at times with sore knees. John, however, has a deadly unorthodox reverse corner, and Chris can chase down a lot of shots. They knocked off #4 seed **Michael Wang & Bruce Sullivan**, then **Court Chilton & Jon Ross** in a five-game quarter. They met their maker in a four-game loss to Cortes & Beebe. Below, **Joe Duffey & protégé Greg Crane** eliminated #2 **Andrew Matuch & Len Zide**, then fell to 2004 champions **Rob Dewees & John Palfrey** in the quarters. Prichett & Greenhill rolled along easily, continuing the same over Rob & John in the semis. In the finals, after dropping the first two, it appeared Glenn & Josh were destined to take the fifth game following 15-7 scores in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> games. Not so. Cortes summoned some remarkable shots, and Scott hit cross courts even harder to close out the game at 10.

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 (this year, a record 166 entrants), and the emergence of younger players bode well for the future of the doubles game in Boston.

# Massachusetts Hardball Doubles Championships



2009 State Mixed Doubles: Finalists - Pat Malloy & Margot Kearney; Champions - Hope Crosier & Chris Spahr



2009 State B Doubles: Finalists - Josh Greenhill & Glenn Prichett; Champions - Joe Cortes & Scott Beebe



2009 State Parent-Child Doubles: Champions - Liam & Tom Quinn; Finalists - Carson & Chris Spahr



2009 State A Doubles: Champions - Andrew Slater & David Palmer; Finalists - Sandy Tierney & Pat Malloy



2009 State 60+ Doubles: Champions - John Brazilian & Lenny Bernheimer; Finalists - Marty Stocklan & Tom Poor



2009 State Women's Doubles: Finalists - Hope Prockop & Sue Greene; Champions - Jeannie Blasberg & Sharon Bradey



# 2009-2010 Mass Squash Executive Board Slate

President – **Dan Reagan**

Vice President - **Dominique Farinaux-Dumas**

Treasurer – **Nat Lovell**

Secretary – **Harold Helson**

Immediate Past President – **Sam Magruder**

Open League Coordinator – **Ripley Hastings**

Women's League Coordinator - **Betsy Hargreaves**

Open Tournament Coordinator – **Chris Lang**

Women's Tournament Coordinator – **Maria Mayorga**

At Large-Membership - **Carl Cummings**

At Large-Investments, Junior Development - **Tom Poor**

At Large-Investments - **Lenny Bernheimer**

At Large-League Scheduling - **Linda Watts**

At Large-Rules & Referees/Communications - **Erik Kirby**

At Large-Website – **Paul Chastanet**

At Large-Newsletter – **Dara-Lynn Pelechatz**

At Large-Yearbook Coordinator – **Merrill Martin**

At Large-Pro Liaison – **Preston Quick**

At Large-College Liaison – **Chris Smith**

# National Championships Winners and Finalists from Mass Squash

## AGE GROUPS

**Junior Closed BU15 Winner:** Edward Columbia

**Junior Bronze BU19 Winner:** William Watkinson

**Open 35+ Winner:** Dan Sharplin

**Open 75+ Finalist:** Ken Cucuel

**Open 80+ Winner:** Charles Butt

**Women's 40+ Winner:** Hope N. Prockop

**Women's 45+ Winner:** Susan E. Kelly

## SKILL LEVELS

**Open 4.0 Winner:** Girish Venkataramani

**Open 4.0 Finalist:** Jose Ferrão

**Open 3.5 Winner:** Jonathan P Atwood

**Open 3.0 Winner:** Tarit Rao-Chakravorti

**Women's 5.0 Finalist:** Fernanda Rocha

## HARDBALL SINGLES

**75+ Winner:** Ken Cucuel

## HARDBALL DOUBLES

**U.S. U25 Finalists:** Fernanda Rocha / Catherine McLeod (NY)

**U.S. 50+ Finalists:** John Nimick / Clive Caldwell (Toronto)

**U.S. 55+ Winners:** Sandy Tierney / Sean McDonough (Toronto)

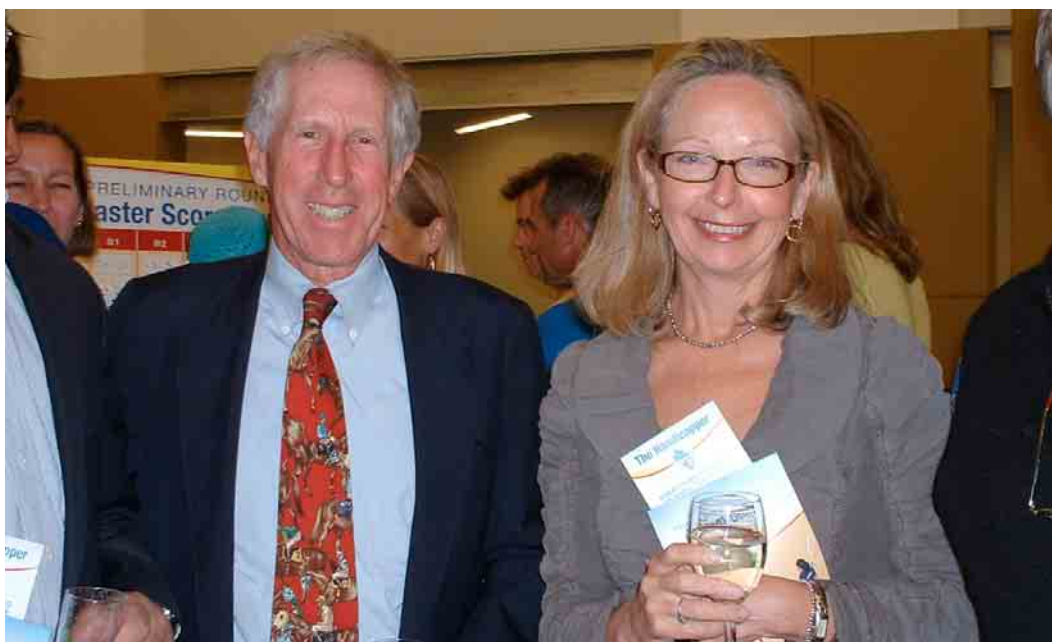
**U.S. 60+ Finalists:** John Brazilian / Frank Schmidt (San Francisco)

**U.S. 65+ Winners:** Tom Poor / Lenny Bernheimer

**Canadian 65+ Winners:** Tom Poor / Lenny Bernheimer

**U.S. Father/Son U13 Winners:** Chris Spahr / Carson Spahr

Right: Lenny Bernheimer  
and Geryl Gray at the  
2009 SquashBusters  
Derby



# 2009 Ellen Borie Award

*presented by Bry Roskoz*

The Ellen Borie trophy is awarded each year by Massachusetts Squash to an individual who has made significant contributions to women's squash and the Massachusetts squash community. **Ellen Borie** was a graduate student in mathematics at Harvard and had great squash potential when she was killed in a car accident in 1970 after being on the Boston squash scene for only a year and a half. In 1971, an award was named in her honor for the good sportsmanship, potential and spirit she exhibited.

We usually don't award the Ellen Borie Trophy to a MA Squash Board member, but since this year's recipient is rolling off the Board I thought it a very appropriate thank you for all of her contributions to Massachusetts squash over the years. Please congratulate **Sarah Lemaire** as this year's recipient of the Ellen Borie Trophy.

Sarah has served the Massachusetts squash community in a variety of ways. She has been my right hand in managing the women's 2.5 league for as long as I can remember. She has edited the MA Squash newsletter three times/year (in other words, she has had to hunt down our late articles three times/year) for the last five years. She has been a substantial contributor to organizing tournaments, such as the Boston Howe Cup, even when she was hurt and couldn't play. And she has been a terrific all-around contributor on the MA Squash Board.

When I asked her fellow squash players for some thoughts on Sarah, I got an overwhelming response. (And almost all of them mentioned something about her smile.) Here is just a glimpse of what they say about Sarah:

- "Every great sport has an ambassador—someone who brings new people to the sport, shares her passion for it, and does the 'behind the scenes' work that keeps the organization rolling smoothly. She does the work of 10 normal squash players, remembers the names and faces of all she meets and connects with us all in a variety of meaningful ways, from Mary Chapin Carpenter music to Howe Cup van rides, from SquashBusters tournaments to end-of-season celebrations, no one does it better than Sarah."
- "Sarah is a thoughtful, kind person who thinks of everything. From arranging carpools to making sure there is a decent selection of hair care products in the showers (paid for out of her own pocket because our club has no budget for frills!). She is always cheerful, pleasant, and a good sport on and off court. I've known her for over 9 years and have never seen her in a bad mood. She's always smiling!"
- "Sarah Lemaire was one of my first contacts with MA squash. I met her in the Concord-Acton parking lot when I came to my very first-ever squash competition a couple of years ago. Sensing I was new to the facility, she invited me in with her warm smile and friendly conversation. Her kind and open attitude draws people in. This quality, combined with her hard work, sense of humor and love of the sport, has made her a tremendously valuable member of our organization. Thank you, Sarah, for everything you do!"
- "I am not sure I have ever seen Sarah without a smile on her face, whether it is as she wrestled with uncooperative software entering results during the state tournament, or delivering a not-so-pleasant message regarding some aspect of protocol that might not sit well with the recipient, or if it were during a tough point that she lost... she is always smiling."
- "When I think of team spirit, Sarah immediately comes to mind. She is deeply committed to the game, earnestly encouraging of others, extraordinarily unselfish and always willing to help out, an exemplifier of first rate sportsmanship, and a real pleasure to know and play with. Her impact is so positive that I do notice if she is not part of an event (though that is really rare!), for her presence always adds such a nice tone to every squash event on and off court."
- "Sarah's endless enthusiasm for the game and her encouragement of others, especially women, to play the game of squash, is just wonderful. Her enthusiasm has spilled over into her participation on the MA Squash board, as a league organizer and tournament "I'll do what you need me to do" "go to" person. You can always rely on Sarah to be there if you need a hand... with anything! She is a valued member of our squash club and the women's squash community."

Please join me in thanking Sarah for all of her contributions to Massachusetts squash and congratulating her as the winner of the 2009 Ellen Borie Trophy.

## Photos from the 3rd SquashBusters Derby



**Bry Roskoz, Martin Heath, Yuleissy Ramirez**



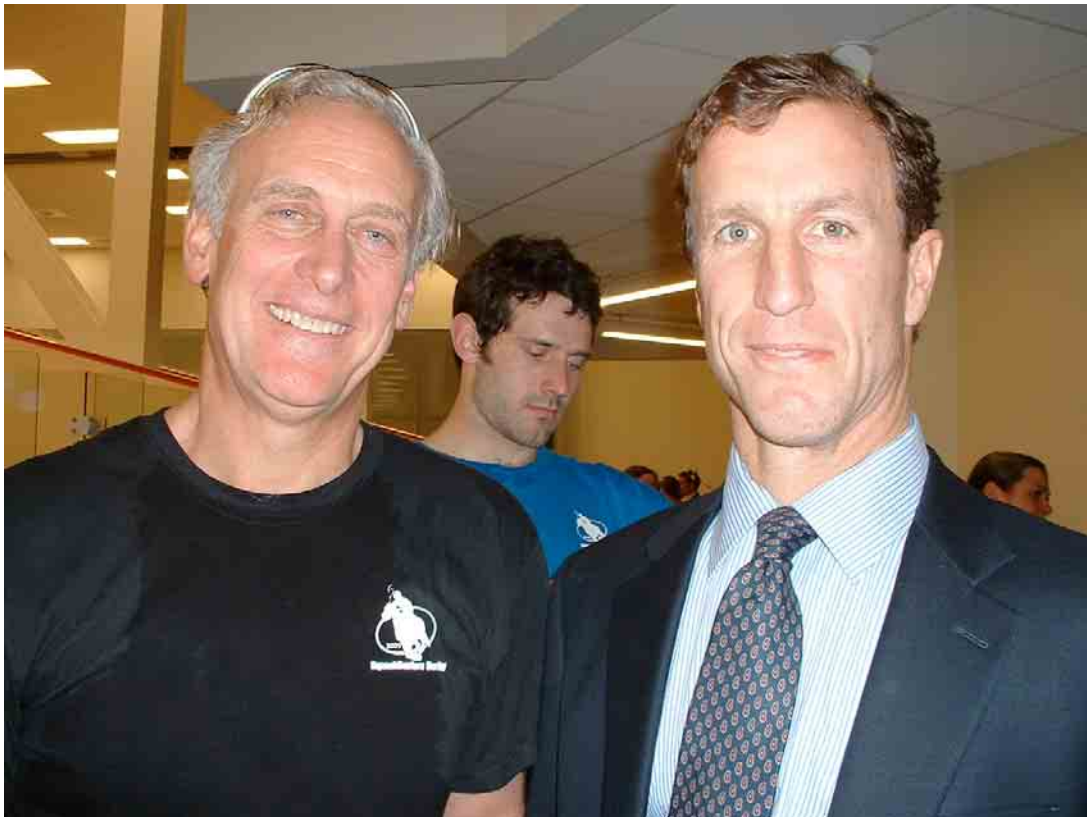
**David Palmer and Peter Nicol**



## Photos from the 3rd SquashBusters Derby



**Dominique Farinaux-Dumas and Sonja Cantu**



**John Smith and Chris Spahr**

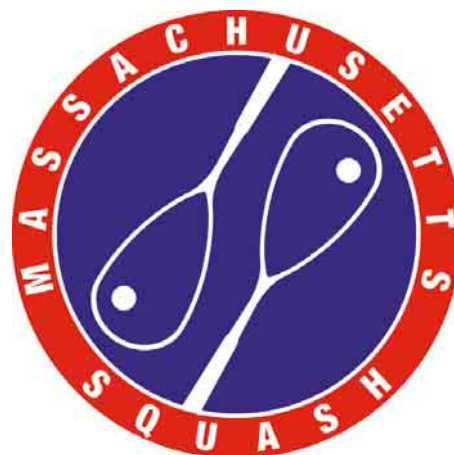
# Summer Squash Rocks!

Massachusetts Squash is offering a summer league again in 2009, beginning on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Talk to your Club Professionals or League Captains about signing up to join a Team.

- Four-person teams compete on Wednesday nights.
- June 17 to mid-August (depending on how many teams).
- Start play between 6pm and 7pm.
- Any skill level, age or gender with MA/US Squash membership.
- Handicaps will be assigned to improve competition.
- Teams need a minimum of eight players of their roster to ensure full teams on Wednesdays due to vacations, etc.
- Captains are encouraged to play all members on their rosters.
- Deadline for team entries is Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.



# Singles Softball Championship Finals Event - A Great Success



The Massachusetts State Singles Softball Championship Finals were held at Cross Courts in Natick this year on Saturday, April 4th.

As it is every year, the finals were watched by a packed crowd, with maybe 200 coming to watch the 16 events. The Bar-B-Q and beer on tap got rave reviews! Thanks to Cross Courts for hosting this MA Squash event. Photos of the champions/finalists appear on pages 3–4.

Approximately 550 players participated in the tourney, and many thanks also to Chris Lang and Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Tourney Co-Chairs, and to flight coordinators Gerry Kirschner, Rip Hastings, Merrill Martin, Carl Cummings, and Bry Roskoz.

MA Squash changed the format this year by running the finals on a Saturday afternoon, not the usual Thursday night in a downtown-Boston location. All seemed to have a good time, and it was a great chance to showcase the new Cross Courts facility with its 4 singles courts.

There is a 4-minute highlights film of the event on YouTube. Check it out at: 2009 MA Squash Singles Softball Finals, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHOW9IQN-AE>. (Click on the “HD” button just below the film frame screen if the video quality comes up poor.)

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