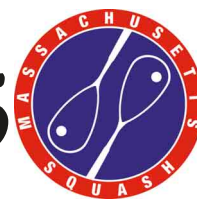


Mass Squash News



Massachusetts

Squash

Newsletter

President's Letter: PAR-11 Scoring

As many of you have already heard or read, the World Squash Federation (WSF) voted to standardize scoring of singles squash using the Point-A-Rally to 11 (PAR-11) system, which the professional circuit has been using for several years. The decision was finally taken to move every match to this system when the Women's Pro league (WISPA) switched last summer. The WSF says that the main reason is to make the scoring easier for viewers of the game to understand and to make the elapsed time of matches more predictable and probably a bit shorter. It may also make the eventual goal of entry into the Olympics more achievable.

US Squash has also voted to adopt this system effective on April 1, 2009, but on a voluntary basis. The current Hand In-Hand Out to 9 points (HiHo-9) system can still be used for sanctioned matches. A number of organizations are already using PAR-11 for tournament play, particularly for juniors and secondary/high school play. The Metropolitan Squash Racquets Association (the other MSRA in New York) has shifted its 5.5 and 5.0 league play to PAR-11 for this year. It is expected that the College Squash Association will change next season.

This pronouncement has caused a great controversy among the members of the Massachusetts Squash board and the league coordinators. Over the last dozen years, we have gotten used to the traditional HiHo international squash scoring method, which produces some long games, requires exceptional fitness and generally doesn't reward excessive risk-taking on shot selection. On the other hand, to continue to perform well in national tournaments, our members will need to be trained to play with the PAR-11 format. The Massachusetts Squash junior tournaments, where individual rankings are very important to the participants, are already using the PAR-11 system. For at least the rest of the 2009 winter season, Massachusetts Squash will continue to use the current HiHo-9 scoring method in league and tournament play.

While there has been a lot of talk about the change, there is little experience with PAR scoring, except in the handicapped 50+ and summer leagues, which use PAR-15. We would like to encourage you to try it out. Play a few matches using PAR scoring with your friends. The method still allows only one serve, but at 10-all, you continue playing until one player is ahead by two points. Try it out to 11 points, and if you find the matches shorter than you would like, try it to 13 or 15 points also.

See if you think your strategy also changes. Do you have to change your shot selection or your serve? We would like to get some data based on actual play. If you have an opinion on the subject, please send it to me or any other member of the Massachusetts Squash board. You probably already know one or more of us from your home club. You can find our email addresses on www.ma-squash.org under the link for the Executive Board.

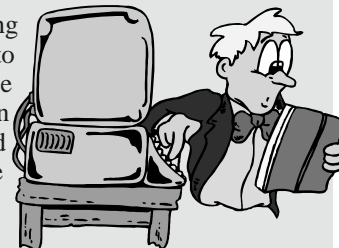
We are one of the largest local squash organizations in the country, so what we do matters to the rest of squash community. Let us know what you think.

—Sam Magruder
President

Skills Needed: Electronic Publishing, Design, Layout, Editorial

Massachusetts Squash is looking for a few good men and women with electronic publishing skills to help with the website, the newsletter, and the annual yearbook. Communication is vital to an organization like ours, so if you know HTML, or Adobe InDesign, and are organized and have a good eye for laying out text and graphics, Massachusetts Squash is looking for members to join the board. Being on the board means you have an inside look at how the organization ticks, and you get a vote on our future direction. The other board members will make sure you get the support you need to do these tasks right.

Contact any of the board members about how you can help.



“...and the Poor shall inherit...”

2009 University Club Pro-Am Doubles

Well, not exactly. **Tom Poor** didn't inherit the earth or anything for that matter, but he did end a thirteen-year streak of losing in the annual University Club Pro-Am Doubles tournament. With great thanks to **John Nimick** who paired Tom with champion **Ben Gould** (some say there was a sympathetic bond between Nimick and Poor, who both recently survived hip replacement surgery), Tom and Ben squeezed past former champion **Mac Davidson** (who goes in for his own hip replacement in five days) and **Mark Chaloner** (Greenwich) in a tense five-game final. The latter pair had not advanced easily. They won 15-14 in the fifth in a first-round encounter against newcomer **Jim Hearty** and **Willie Hosey** (Toronto), and then they had to win another five-game match over home professional **Chris Spahr** and **Court Chilton**. Poor & Gould reached the final with two four-game victories, and then another victory over **John Hailer** and **John Russell** (New York), who pulled the upset of the tournament in the quarters with a five-game win over many time champion **Sandy Tierney** and **Andrew Slater** (Boston).



Main Draw: Finalists: Mac Davidson & Mark Chaloner; Champions: Ben Gould & Tom Poor

The University Club Pro Doubles Championship, and its sister tournament, the University Club Pro-Am Doubles Championship, have become an important mid-January fixture on the ISDA Professional Doubles Tour. With 2 sponsors, 77 patrons and 16 amateur players providing financial support for the event, the professionals competed in both the Professional and Pro-Am tournaments for \$32,000 in prize money. In addition, the high level of play in both tournaments brought out sizeable galleries throughout the weekend. This year, the finals were again held on Sunday

after a delicious brunch. The finals provided a two-hour, tremendous match between the last year's champions **Damien Mudge** (New York) and **Viktor Berg** (Vancouver) vs. **Matt Jensen** (Greenwich) and **Clive Leach** (New York). Matt & Clive, seeded fourth, won a 16-15 fifth game over the top-seeded pair of **Paul Price** (Toronto) and **Ben Gould** (New York), and then they went to a fifth game again before bowing. For Damien and Viktor, the victory marked their third straight win in the eight ISDA tournaments played to date.



North Draw: Finalists: James Hewitt & Lenny Bernheimer; Champions: Sandy Tierney & Andrew Slater

The North Draw in the Pro-Am was composed of teams that won their first matches, but lost in the second round of the main draw. Tierney & Slater proved too strong in this bracket, handling **Jim Bildner** (the only amateur to play in all 13 of the Pro-Ams) & Berg in three, and then winning the final over

2009 University Club Pro-Am Doubles (cont.)

tournament chairman **Lenny Bernheimer & James Hewitt** (Toronto). However, a new first was established when Lenny & James won the third game, 15 to -2, the first time in the Pro-AM handicap event one team has not scored a point in a game! The latter pair had also won a tight five-game semi-final over **John Brazilian & Hamed Anvari** (New York).

Moving to the West Draw with some hurt feelings and sore muscles were the losers of the first-round matches. **Joel Kozol**, the oldest but among the most accurate players in the draw, paired with **Matt Jenson** (Greenwich) to defeat **Steve Wolfe** and **Damien Mudge** in three games. Steve again captured the sartorial award with his pink sweat pants. Joel's son **Matthew** and



West Draw: Finalists: Preston Quick & Matthew Kozol; Champions: Dave Riccio & Pat Malloy

Preston Quick, the Union Boat Club's professional, won narrowly in five games over **Jim Hearty** and **Willie Hosey** (Toronto) to set up for the first time a father-son match in the West semi-finals. Son Matthew prevailed in five games again. Meanwhile, in the upper half of the draw, **Dave Riccio** and hometown favorite **Pat Malloy** eased past **Marty Stocklan** and **Paul Price** (Toronto) to meet **Philip Bullen** and **Joe Pentland** (New York), conquerors of first-time player **Jeff Sherman** and Sports Club LA professional **Ben Howell**. Dave and Pat won another five-game tussle, but then fell behind, 2-1, in the finals against Matthew and Preston. Dave managed to rise to the occasion, with some small help from Pat, as they took the last two games at 12.

The South Draw was reserved for West Draw quarter-final losers. The Price &

Draw quarter-final losers. The Price &

Draw quarter-final losers. The Price & Draw quarter-final losers. The Price &

Draw quarter-final losers. The Price & Draw quarter-final losers. The Price &



South Draw: Champions: Willie Hosey & Jim Hearty; Finalists: Marty Stocklan & Paul Price

My First Howe Cup:

A Light-Hearted Look at Playing in Women's Squash Premier Event

by Leslie Koplow, Boston C2 Team

Despite the fact that this is my first Howe Cup, and only my third squash league match ever, there's something immediately familiar about being among this crush of 200+ women stretching, chatting, warming up. The scatter of athletic bags, the scent of antiperspirant, Ben-Gay, coffee, and shampoo wafting through the air, the din. It brings me back—waaay back—to my college years and the annual soccer tournaments I attended. Still me, but in the days before I had a work identity, husband, children, crows' feet.

So because I have never played in a squash tournament, I am a little nervous. But not wretchedly so. My first match is Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. against a tall, muscular woman named M. Think six feet tall, with a high blond ponytail, intense dark eyes and long arms. She starts off strong in the first game, and is soon leading 6-2. Dang, these points go by fast. I decide I need to wake up and get scrappy, and I start hitting my hardest, nastiest serves off the sidewalls. I come back up slowly but surely to 8-8, and take the last two points. Off-court, my teammates advise me to keep up the hard shots, "She doesn't like them." That's good enough for me. The next two games are hard-fought, but less difficult, with a 3-0 final match score. We shake hands amicably at the match's end. I am thrilled, frankly, to have won, and wonder if I stand a chance of winning more matches and improving my squash standing. As usual, I am a little ahead of myself. M exacts revenge later by taking a picture of me (supposedly) snoring, sprawled across two armchairs in front of the TV in the women's locker room and posts it to www.ussquash-tournaments-unflattering-pictures.com.

My second match is a scant few hours later on Friday, at 1:30, against J, a wily opponent from Seattle. We meet before our match begins, and all my attempts to gain an early advantage fail. I offer her three-day-old sushi—she demurs. I ask what she would consider her squash weaknesses while she is distracted, reffing a teammate's match, but she only gives me a quizzical look. Still, I meet her on the court with confidence after my earlier win. I am hopped up, hyper. I hit my hardest serves. She returns them with glee and deadly accuracy, to put them away in the front corners. Nothing gets past her. I am puzzled. I lose quickly.

My coaches D & P advise me between games, and give me good advice: play deeper shots to length. Use the advantage my long limbs to reach for everything! "Nothing is beyond your reach!" they tell me, but sadly, they're wrong. Every ball is just a few inches too far away from my outstretched racquet. My lame lobs are volleyed to the front corners, my serves are pounded back at me mercilessly, and before I know it the match is over, 3-0. The rest of my team fares equally badly, so we are 1-1 in matches. Humbled, I accept a J's offer of a beer from the keg on the club's floor. "Remember you asked me about my weaknesses?" she says. "Well, I'll tell you now. I can't handle players who do those soft little drop shots. I love it when people try to power by me—I just eat those up." Yeah, I noticed. And am filing away for when we meet next year.

I spend the rest of the afternoon watching A and B teams play. By God, these women play a great game of squash. Clean, graceful, precise—they make it look all too easy.

Saturday morning, at some ungodly hour is our next match. Win or be knocked out of the tournament. Our opponent team from the West Coast has lost a match as well and we figure they are WAY jet-lagged. But we are a little tired ourselves. I don't remember getting dressed, and I think I forgot to brush my hair. When we arrive at the club at 8:00, I am stunned. No coffee yet! My God, they don't expect us to play uncaffeinated, do they? But soon the brown boxes of stimulants arrived, and 9:00 finds me mainlining caffeine and running up and down the stairs to the second floor to try to dispel my sluggishness.

I am introduced to my opponent, W. Lovely-looking woman with a direct gaze and charming smile, a psychiatrist by profession. But by now, Day 2, I am savvier. I know not to judge an opponent by what she looks like. A fragile-looking flower can slam a ball down your throat, and a heavysset woman can cross the court on the diagonal like a gazelle and drop a ball an inch above the tin or lob it to a back corner with the flick of a wrist.

Our match begins and we are even, briefly, at 0-0. From there it's downhill. I'm playing defensively from the start and every other shot I make seems to ricochet back at me. My opponent is catching on and starts calling lets. The refs flash me a sign through the glass that I immediately realize is not good—a closed fist. Isn't that a swear in Italian? It's certainly not a positive sign for me. I bear down and try to place my shots more carefully; I leap out of the way spastically after hitting the ball, and yet it's drawn to me like a magnet. More swearing from the refs and then me. Our first game ends.

I step out of the court and lodge an official complaint with the referee—my opponent is toying with me. My coaches give me more advice; most of it dribbles out the other ear. B. tells me not to put so much effort into my serve; it's leaving me unprepared for the return. *That sounds right.* Play smart. *Huh?* Hit to length. *I'm trying.* Lob. *Impossible.* *But is there time for more coffee?* No, our 90 seconds is up. Back on court.

Before we begin, W distracts me by asking about my mother and how losing makes me feel. I start to sob. She serves. With great concentration and focus, I hit it solidly into the tin. We play some more. She accidentally runs her face into my racquet. We are both rattled and take a short break to examine the bridge of her nose. It is pink but there is no broken skin. We resume our game. Let, let, stroke, lose. I am down two games.

Game 3 is more of the same, with a record-breaking number of strokes. I am trying every strategy I can think of, in no particular order, but all my shots bounce back to me directly. I am suffering from stroke. Heat stroke, brain stroke, stroke of bad fortune, every stroke in the book. My last match ends. I am out of the tournament. I shake hands with the ref and my opponent, slightly stunned. It's gone so fast. We're out already?

Ah, but next year. Next year will be different.

Meredith Johnson Receives the 2008 Ellen Borie Trophy

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.

In October 2006, a group of women B league players were having drinks at the University Club talking about the 2007 Howe Cup. Boston was hosting the tournament, but none of the usual suspects were able to take on the tournament coordinator responsibility. I don't know if it was the Maker's Mark talking, but Meredith Johnson finally spoke up and agreed to run the tournament, if Kara Kardon and Wendy Irwin organized the Saturday night party. A deal was made!

To say that the 2007 Howe Cup was a success is an understatement. Boston hosted over 220 women from across the U.S. in four singles and one doubles draws (usual turnout is 170–180 players). Players who have attended Howe Cup for years said it was the most well organized and most fun Howe Cup in which they'd played, which is impressive since the Howe Cup is known as the most fun tournament of the year.

Boston clearly set a higher standard for host cities to come. And much of this was due to Meredith's leadership. Starting with almost a year's advance planning, Meredith led the planning of every last detail of the tournament—from securing the courts (which required literally camping out at the Harvard Athletic Facilities' Director's office) to the goodies in the gift bag to the all-important Saturday night dance party. Sadly Meredith was unable to play in Howe Cup due to a back injury which made her dedication all the more remarkable.

While we very much appreciate Meredith's contributions to the Howe Cup, everyone who knows her knows that she has contributed to Massachusetts squash far beyond Howe Cup. Meredith's spirit and enthusiasm for the game are contagious. Despite injuries over the years, she is the one person (possibly only rivaled by Dominique) that you can count on to be at every squash event, cheering people on and coaching anyone who wants it (or not!). She knows almost every woman squash player in Massachusetts, not to mention around the U.S.

On the court, Meredith is a fierce competitor but always demonstrates true sportsmanship, as demonstrated by having won the Betty Richie Award her senior year at Colby which is "awarded, by vote of the current Women's Collegiate captains and coaches, to the collegiate player who best exemplifies the ideals of squash in her love of and devotion to the game, her strong sense of fairness, and her excellence of play, contributions, and leadership."

Here is what her fellow Massachusetts squash players say about Meredith:

- "Meredith has been super enthusiastic since she picked up a racquet for the first time in 10th grade. She has exemplary sportsmanship and humility and thinks of others' needs at the courts always before her own. She has a genuine and inspiring combination of love of the game, competitive intensity, tenacity, and fair play. What she did with the Howe Cup will be hard for any city to ever live up to."
- "When I first joined the University Club, I didn't know anyone. Then I met Meredith and had an instant introduction to what seemed like the entire Boston squash community. Meredith connects with so many people in squash—singles and doubles, young and old—and is one of the lynch pins in turning squash players into a squash community."
- "Meredith epitomizes so much of what is great about squash. It is a game which requires patience, determination and a huge competitive drive to excel. You can feel her passion in every point you play against her and win or lose, it is always an enjoyable and exhausting match!"
- "Surgeons may have been able to keep Meredith off the court for a short time, but they couldn't keep her away from the sport or the players. During her rehab, Meredith continues to be involved like the junior players' parents—attending tournaments, dissecting match strategies and joining ladies league night for coaching, dinner and the occasional beverage. Forever optimistic about all of the women's skill levels, Meredith keeps us hopeful that we can get to that perfect drop shot and return that graceful lob with equal grace."
- "Meredith loves the game of squash more than anyone I know. Even with a serious injury, she spends more time around a squash court than anyone. Her commitment to the game was most clearly evidenced by her willingness to take on the planning involved in the 2007 Boston Howe Cup despite the fact that she could not participate. It was truly an amazing event, one of the best that anyone can remember. We know her injury won't keep her off the courts forever—we're looking forward to her return."

Please join me in thanking Meredith for all of her contributions to Massachusetts squash and congratulating her as the winner of the 2008 Ellen Borie Trophy.





THE MAUGUS CLUB
 40 Abbott Road
 Wellesley Hills, MA 02481
 Telephone: (781) 235-8151

February 7 & 8, 2009

The Maugus Club

Presents:

A MATURE EVENT

- Flights: Men's 50+ 55+ 60+ 65+ 70+ 75+
- Women's 40+ (A/B) 40+ (C)

We will use each flight, if possible.
 Consolation draws will be held in each flight.
 Some matches may be played Friday evening, if necessary.

- Courts: ASB international courts
- Ball: Dunlop XX Soft Ball
- Entry Fee: \$45 (add \$15 if not a USSRA Member)
- Sanctions: USSRA and MSRA
- Deadline: Tuesday, February 3rd
- Social Events: Breakfast & Lunch Saturday and Sunday; refreshments available throughout.

NOTE: Lensed eyeguards are mandatory. Winners of each match are required to referee the following match.

Tournament Committee: Lewis Holmes (781) 237-9313
 Tristan Egan (781) 381-4269 (Squash Chairman)
 Lee Engler (781) 891-8972
 Richard Houde (508) 385-5720

**Register for the tournament either by completing the form below and mailing it with your entry fee to:
 The Mature Event c/o Lewis Holmes • 377 Weston Rd., Wellesley, MA 02482**

or

Register on-line at www.maugus.com/mature and bring your entry fee to the sign-in on February 7th
 Please make checks payable to The Maugus Club

.....

Name: _____ USSRA#: _____

Address: _____ Flight: _____


City/State/Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Club: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Looking for a way to get an early jump on those New Year's resolutions dancing around in the sugar-plum of your head? Or is your trophy shelf looking a little sparse, in need of an addition, and you have no chance

in hell of winning an  ?

CONSIDERING THROWING YOURSELF IN THE RING WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE YOU KNOW YOU CAN BEAT, BUT DON'T GET A CHANCE TO PLAY VERY OFTEN...

ENTER THE MSRA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNEY!!!

Registration is **FAST & EASY** [online](#) via the MSRA Homepage!

The competition – **FURIOUS!**

Bragging rights **LAST FOREVER!**

ENTRY DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1st – NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

Don't be a slouch and contemplate on the couch. Restring your bats, strengthen your lats, and be on the receiving end of "CONGRATS!"



Adult Leagues: Midseason Reports

Women's 3.5

Bry Roskoz, League Chair

At the All Star Break, Lisa's Lets has taken a commanding lead of the women's 3.5 league having won 80% of their points. In second place Kara's Kourts (50%) are inching out Margo's Matches (38%) and Betsy's Boasts (31%) for second place. With the assigned team format, teams consist of players from different clubs hence the league chair's attempt at team name creativity.

Despite Betsy's Boasts being in a race for last, fearless captain **Betsy Hargreaves** has racked up the best individual record of the season with 3 straight wins. The league also has several newcomers this year, including **Heather Sullivan** and **Anna Bullard** from BRC, **Amanda Knappman** from T&R and **Melissa Roth** from the University Club. In addition, two players were promoted into the women's 3.5 league, **Liz Young** and **Sabrina Davies**.

We look forward to an exciting second half of the season. Stay tuned to see if Lisa's Lets will finish out the season like this year's or last year's Celtics, whether **Betsy Hargreaves** can do one better than the Patriots and have a perfect season, who will win the Rookie of the Year Award and much more...

Women's 2.5

Sarah Lemaire, League Chair

The Women's 2.5 league lost the Maugus Club team this year, but not the players. **Kerry Wellington** and **Lucy Bradley** are teaming up with **Debbie Carr** and **Jimena Velarde** for a very strong BSC-Waltham team that is currently in first place. **Debbie Harrison** has joined the UClub/BSC-Allston team. We hope to see **Becky Lingard** back in the league some time soon!

We welcome the new team from T&R, a young and athletic team captained by **Beth Robinowitz** that is improving with each match. They will be a force to be reckoned with next year.

Cambridge Athletic Club's captain, **Maria Mayorga** has been busy recruiting for her team. Newcomers **Laura Betz** and **Rachel Meyers** are winning matches against many of the established league players; they moved into second place with a 4-0 thumping of defending champs Concord-Acton in January.

CASC has a strong grip on third place, with a determined **Catherine Kniker** playing at #1, tireless newcomer **Leslie Koplou** at #2, and veteran **Elaine Apostolides** at #3.

Dominique Farinaux-Dumas' SquashBusters team is always strong; SquashBuster alum **Elisa Melendez** is undefeated, and **Leila Ripley**, **Suzi Melotti**, and **Melissa London** all have winning records.

The Harvard Club is led by their two strongest players captain **Betsy Johnson** and **Phoebe Slanetz**. The Harvard Club and SquashBusters teams had first tie in recent memory: both team earned 77 points each in their December 9 match, although

when they sent the scores in, Betsy's math was a bit sketchy. It must have been the post-match drinks!

TonTon Russell leads the UClub/BSC-Allston team, with several new and returning players. Her team plays at both clubs, the first time in many years that we've played the BSC-Allston courts.

The league social is Tuesday, January 27, after matches in our favorite room at T&R. Will party animals Cambridge Athletic Club once again have the most participants? RSVP to your captain and come and see. In an effort not to get complacent, I have a few surprises up my sleeve. Stay tuned...

Open 4.5

By Gerry Kirshner, League Chair

We have hit the halfway point in the season!

Boston Racquet Club has been in sole possession of first place for weeks 1-6. In week 7, thanks to a 0-5 defeat at the hands of the surging Union Boat Club team, BRC has been dropped into a tie with defending champs University Club. Cross Courts, in their 2nd year of existence, has been aided by some key defections from Maugus Club. After finishing the 2007-2008 season in 9th place, they have charged up the 2008 standings to occupy the 3rd place spot. Perennially strong BSC Allston, T&R (last year's runner-up and champs from 2 years ago) and Union Boat Club round out the top 6.

Newly entering the 4.5 league from the 4.0s is Cambridge Athletic Club. Led by a strong #1 in **Ian Cooper**, Cambridge has made the other teams take note of their entry to the league.

The full midseason standings are:

Team	Winning %	Possible points	Points
Boston Racquet	71%	35	25
University Club	71%	35	25
Cross Courts	66%	35	23
BSC Allston	60%	35	21
Tennis&Racquet	54%	35	19
Union Boat Club	54%	35	19
Concord Acton	46%	35	16
Maugus Club	31%	35	11
MIT	26%	35	9
Cambridge Ath'c	20%	35	7

Individual honors through 7 weeks: BRC's **Brian Marsden** is the only player to be perfect at the #1 spot, going 6-0 to date. Congratulations Brian—you are halfway to a promotion to the A league! Brian is also 2nd in points won, at 66%. So far only BSC's **Ken Leng** has pushed Brian...will anyone in the 2nd half tarnish Brian's run at perfection?

(continued on next page)

Adult Leagues: Midseason Reports (continued)

Second in perfection and first in points won as a percentage of total points is U Club's **Amrit Kanwal**. Amrit is 6-0 on the season, winning 69% of points played and a perfect 100% of games played.

Open 4.0

By Rip Hastings, League Chair

Great participation in the 4.0s with 11 teams putting a total of 97 men and women into the courts over the first half. Captains are terrific and defaults are minimal. Thank you!

Three teams ended 2008 at 6-1, with BSC-Waltham a convincing #1, taking all but three individual matches for a winning percentage of 88.6%. BRC and MIT, also at 6-1, were dead even, each winning 77.1% of their available points. Close behind, T&R (at 60%) and Cross Courts (at 51.4%) round out the five 4.0 teams winning more than half of their available points in the first half.

"The Difference" for Waltham, **José Ferrão** (7-0 across the top three positions) and **Andrew Holman** (5-0 at #1) look like the top players in the league. But then, T&R's **James Schwartz** (6-1 overall; 5-1 at #1); MIT's **Ben Warfield** (5-2 at #1) and BRC's **Naveen Cherukuri** (4-0 overall; 3-0 at #1) are also bringing it.

The real stalwarts over the first half have been **Robert Lunkoto** for Milton and **Stephen Neumeier** for University Club One, who played in all 8 of their team's 8 matches. The other 100%-ers (going 7 for 7) were **José** for Waltham, **James** for T&R, and **Ben Warfield** and **Victor Mireku** for MIT.

With an unbalanced schedule, it's hard to say how things will look in March, so on we go...

Be strong and play well!

Open 3.5

By Merrill Martin, League Chair

The 3.5 league is off to a very enthusiastic start this season. Many thanks go out to the team captains who are doing a fantastic job! This year we welcome Newton Squash and Tennis to the 3.5 league.

Most of the teams have good depth, ranging from 8 to 15 players per team. The BRC has had an exceptional start to the season without losing a team match. Close behind is Cross Courts (last seasons #1) with one team loss (to BSC Waltham). As a general rule, we're seeing some very competitive play.

The team standings at the mid-point of the season are:

Team Name	Wins	Losses	Points	Win%
1. Boston Racquet Club	7	0	30	86%
2. Cross Courts	7	1	33	83%
3. BSC Waltham	5	2	21	60%
4. Cambridge Racquet	5	3	23	58%

5. Newton Squash	4	3	19	54%
6. Tennis & Racquet	4	4	21	53%
7. M.I.T.	3	4	16	46%
8. Union Boat Club	2	5	14	40%
9. Concord-Acton	2	5	14	40%
10. Longfellow	1	6	7	20%
11. BSC Allston	0	7	2	6%

The team dynamics have been great. Reports from captains indicate competitive matches played in the spirit of sportsmanship in a friendly atmosphere. Hosting teams have done a good job treating the visiting teams well.

50+

Boston Racquet Club leads 50+ League at the break

by Sam Magruder, League Chair

To the surprise of almost no one, **Mike MacDonald's** Boston Racquet Club defending champion team holds a 7-point lead over Concord-Acton and 8 points over Maugus after the first half of play. They also hold the first tie-breaker (head-to-head results) over both of those clubs. Only Milton managed to tie BRC before counting games to lose the bonus point. BRC replaced their former #1 player with the still-undefeated **Whitney Boucher** this year.

Four other players on the ladder are also undefeated, **Dan Reagan, Mike Loucks, Mike Sceery** and **Chris Alt**. The rest of the league is encouraged to keep shooting since the handicap system is a great leveler. Concord-Acton looks like it might provide the toughest challenge, as they are also undefeated except for their BRC match. Adding the very young **Will Bigelow** at the top of the ladder has really helped their matchups. **Roger Jones, Phil Brewer** and **Ed Silbert** are all looking like they will post very strong records for the year. Maugus has similarly been shaking up the ladder as Captain **Keith Munsell** recruited rookie **Nana Poku** to augment his very powerful 1-2 of **Mark Dickenson** and **Martin Deale**.

The fight for the number four position in the playoffs between Union Boat and the newest league entry, Cross Courts, looks very tight. The two teams split their head-to-head matches and are only one point apart in the standings. **Phil Laird** and **Archie McIntyre** lead the UBC, while Captain **Larry Hargreaves** of Cross Courts has been mixing and matching his workhorses, **Paul White, Merrill Martin** and **Dennis Philbin**, to good advantage. The Harvard Club has been hit by some injuries and will need a big surge and some help from the teams up above to challenge for the playoffs. **Marc Cendron** (3-0) has been holding up his end, but other performances have been more mixed. Milton, using its favorable handicaps, can be counted on to spoil the chances of any unwary competitors. **Mike Spatola** and **John Catlin** continue to record some good wins, while rookie **Sue Kerr** has made a lot of people run.

Massachusetts Junior Open @ Groton

January 2-4, 2009

This year's Massachusetts Junior Open moved from Harvard to Groton School with its almost-new facility of 12 courts around a central dais. This set-up was ideal for running the tournament smoothly, and the school itself, set in a lovely New England town, provided ample parking outside the Athletic Center which featured a large foyer to serve food, locker rooms and a very helpful staff. **Hope** and **David Prockop**, squash coaches, were most gracious and ever present. The tournament had eight age divisions, 29 draws and 173 entrants coming from as far away as Canada, Georgia, Washington and Michigan.

GU13: This draw was surprisingly small with only five entries, surprising because there are many girls in this category in the region, but only a few came to play. **Marina Hartnick** won the round robin with a three-game victory over finalist **Samantha Chai**.

GU15: **Addie Fulton**, a 12-year old from Stratton Mountain, VT, played up into this age group and won over a field of 23, besting **Madeline Fraser** (Brooklyn, NY) in four games. Addie defeated **Kimran Bajwa** in the semis while Madeline won over **Lily Grant** in the other semi. **Dana Rapisarda**, a recent new resident of the Boston area from Brooklyn, won the Consolation, **Caroline Monrad** won the Classic Plate and **Becky Brownell** won the Plate.

GU17: From a strong draw of 25, **Jesse Pacheco**, a product of New York's City Squash urban program and the #2 player at St. George's, defeated Middlesex' **Serena Fagan** in the finals, completing the tournament without the loss of a game. Serena had a five game struggle in the semis with **Ashley Brooks** of the SquashBusters program and now attending Tabor Academy. Jesse defeated **Nina Scott** in the other semifinal who in turn won over Ashley in the 3rd/4th place playoff. **Yuleissy Ramirez**, another SquashBuster, won the Consolation over Deerfield's **Kathryn Grace Kaelin**, **Roxana Mead** the Classic Plate and **Hilary Evans** (Greenwich) the Plate.

GU19: The oldest girls featured many strong players, no more in evidence than in the finals where **Corey Schafer** outlasted **Dori Rahbar**, Nobles' #1, in five close games. Dori had had to spend a lot of energy in the semis edging **Courtney Jones**, #1 at St. George's, in five very close games. Boston's **Alli Rubin** (on her way to Williams next year, of all places!) had a nice four-game win in the quarters over Ontario's **Juana Chaves** before bowing to Corey in the semis. **Page Duke** of Middlesex won the Consolation in five over **Hannah Coffin**, Juana defeated practice partner **Laura Caty** (Buffalo) in the Classic Plate and **Brooke Hammer** won the Plate.

BU13: **Cheraag Bajwa** returned from school in India for his Christmas vacation and breezed through the BU13 draw without the loss of a game. There are several good young players in this group, including finalist **Max Reed** (Lebanon, NH) and semi-finalists **Stephen Monrad** and **Timmy Brownell**. Also strong are **Blake Gilbert-Bono** and **Carson Spahr**, winner and finalist in the Classic Plate. **Justin Curtis** took the Consolation and **James Paoletta** the Plate.

BU15: **Arhum Saleem** traveled from Georgia with his older twin brothers to play in this tournament for a second year. Although small in stature, he moves around the court quickly and hits the ball harder than his size would suggest. He marched to the finals without the loss of a game to meet New York's **Guy Davidson**, the top seed who had also not lost a game. The final was closely contested for two games before Guy wore Arhum down, finishing the match in four. **Walker Evans** (Greenwich) defeated **Atticus Kelly** (West Hartford) in the 3rd/4th playoff. William Paoletta won the Consolation, **Derek Buffum** the Classic Plate and SquashBusters' **Christian Rodriguez** the Plate.

BU17: This draw was the largest of the tournament with 35 entrants. It also featured the most upsets with only one of the top four seeds reaching the semi-finals. Third seeded **John Steele** from Philadelphia's Episcopal Academy fell in the semis to **John Lamont**, a few days shy of his 17th birthday from Montreal. John and his father have been coming to this tournament for four years, travelling by bus as the elder Lamont does not drive. Perseverance has its rewards as on his fourth try John won the tournament, defeating **Pehlaaj Bajwa** in three. Steele defeated teammate **Tyler Odell** in the 3rd/4th place playoff. **Sam Sokolsky-Tiff** (Williamstown), the top seed, fell in the Classic Plate semis to **Derek Chilvers** who went on to win over **Liam Quinn**. **Scott DeSantis** won the Consolation on five over Nobles teammate **Conor McClintock**, and **Cameron Rahbar** won the Plate over **Kelvin Chen**.

BU19: More five game matches than ever were the feature of this draw as **Taylor Foehl** (Williamstown) edged **Greg Crane** (headed to Trinity next year) in a four game final. Taylor struggled to get by St. Marks' #1, **Russell Woeltz** in a four game semi after Russell had squeezed by Milton's **John Nimmo**, 13-11 in the 5th. **Matthew Baker-White** (Williamstown and going to Bates next year) survived a five game quarters with **Chris Ivsin**, and then had only a little left to go down in three to Crane in the semis. In another five game, Woeltz defeated Matthew in the 3rd/4th place playoff. Fittingly, **Will Watkinson** won the Consolation in five over **Trevor Truog**, John Nimmo over Chris Ivsin in five in the Classic Plate and Buffalo's **Elliot Johnston** won the Plate (in four!)

The Massachusetts Junior Committee unanimously agreed that the Groton venue was very successful and hope to repeat this year's success in 2010.

—Tom Poor, for the Massachusetts Junior Committee

Deerfield Junior Open

November 15, 2008

Deerfield Academy hosted its first Open junior tournament in the new \$6.5 mil Dewey Squash Center. The Center has 10 beautiful ASB courts set in a spacious viewing area, framed by large picture windows overlooking a verdant lower level of playing fields and the Deerfield River. It is a remarkable venue.

Deerfield provided not only a wonderful squash facility but additional amenities including locker rooms, Gatorade and meals in the school dining room with the entirety of the school body. Parents and players alike were able to get a taste of life at one of New England's premier preparatory schools.

80 entrants including 11 SquashBusters made up eight divisions. Given the number of entries, number of courts and the new PAR-11 scoring system, the Mass Jr. Committee elected to run the tournament in a single day, a decision welcomed by all. Matches were done by the early evening, allowing visitors ample time for return trips home.

Results were as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| GU13 Champion: Addie Fulton (Stratton Mountain, VT)
Finalist: Eliza Dunham (New Haven, CT)
Consolation: Samantha Chai (Norwell, MA)
Plate: Ananya Mahalingam-Dhingra (Brookline, MA) | BU13 Champion: Carson Spahr (Boston, MA)
Finalist: Blake Gilbert-Bono (Wellesley, MA)
Consolation: Matthew Gladstone (Chestnut Hill, MA)
Plate: Robert Dewey (New Canaan, CT) |
| GU15 Champion: Madeline Fraser (Brooklyn, NY)
Finalist: Caroline Monrad (Newton, MA)
Consolation: Abby Ingrassia (Brooklyn, NY)
Plate: Charlotte Ross (Newton Centre, MA) | BU15 Champion: Atticus Kelly (West Hartford, CT)
Finalist: C.J. Smith (Locust Valley, NY)
Consolation: Darwyn Nunez (SquashBusters)
Plate: Tyler Billman (Brookline, MA) |
| GU17 Champion: Hallie Dewey (Deerfield Academy)
Finalist: Zoe Michas (New York, NY)
Consolation: Alyssa Northrop (Brooklyn, NY)
Plate: Bianca Vega (SquashBusters) | BU17 Champion: William Douglass (Brooklyn, NY)
Finalist: Derek Chilvers (Weston, MA)
Consolation: Robert Zindman (Belle Mead, NJ)
Plate: Randy Coplin (SquashBusters) |
| GU19 Champion: Hallie Dewey (Deerfield Academy)
Finalist: Sarah Loucks (Boston, MA) | BU19 Champion: Jay Dolan (Deerfield Academy)
Finalist: West Hubbard (Deerfield Academy)
Consolation: Peter Yanofsky (Belmont, MA)
Plate: Rodney Galvao (SquashBusters) |



The Dewey Squash Center at Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, MA

Mass Junior Open Photos



BU13 Finalist: Max Reed; Champion: Cheraag Bajwa



BU15 Finalist: Arhum Saleem; Champion: Guy Savidson



BU17: Champion: John Lamont; Finalist: Pehlaaj Bajwa



BU19: Finalist: Greg Crane; Champion: Taylor Foehl

Mass Junior Open Photos



GU13: Champion: Marina Hartwick



GU15: Champion: Addie Fulton, Finalist: Madeline Fraser



GU17: Finalist: Serena Fagan; Champion: Jesse Pacheco



GU19: Finalist: Dori Rahbar, Champion: Corey Schafer

2008 University Club Junior Silver Star

Clearly, the snow gods and the squash gods dislike each other around Christmas. For the second year in a row, a major winter blizzard blasted Boston and jeopardized the University Club Silver Tourney weekend. Despite lousy conditions, alert parents (many from out of town) and timely reorganization of Friday evening matches to earlier in the day allowed the tournament to avoid many defaults.

With 216 matches, the Union Boat Club generously offered three of their courts to host the Boys Under 17 & 15 matches on Friday and Saturday.

The tournament used the point a rally (PAR) to 15 points just like old hardball scoring, except overtime happens only at 14 all with the choice of 1 or 3 points to determine the game.

Matches were well contested and the Club's squash floor was packed all weekend with great spectators!

BU11:

Main Draw: **Reg Anderson** def **James Bell** 3-0

Plate: **Patrick McElroy** def. **Cole Koepfel**

BU13:

Main Draw: **Komron Shayegan** (Princeton) def. **Zach Meszoely** 3-0

Consolation: **Spencer Anton** def. **Matthew Gladstone**

Plate: **Graham Gozigian** def. **Hailu**

BU15:

Main Draw: **Sean Kenny** (Philadelphia) def. **Peter Sammis** (Philadelphia)

Consolation: **Derek Buffum** def. **Carson Spahr** 3-0

Plate: **Spencer Jeffrey** def **Peter Satterthwaite**

BU17:

Main Draw: **Derek Chilvers** def. **Stephen Danyluk** 3-0

Consolation: **Aneesh Chutthani** def **Michele** 3-0

Plate: **Harney** def. **Sam Livingston** 3-1

GU11:

Round Robin Winner: **Maddie Chai**

GU13:

Main Draw: **Sarah Bell** def. **Ananya Mahalingham-Dhingra** 3-0

Plate: **Emma Roberts** def. **Stepanie Almeida** 3-0

GU15:

Main Draw: **Zoe Carey** def. **Hannah McCormack** 3-0

Consolation: **Haley Connor** def. **Lillie Simourian** 3-2

Plate: **Gabriella Wynne** def. **Hayden McCall** 3-1

Girls Under 17:

Main Draw: **Ashley Brooks** def. **Sarah Haig** 3-0

Consolation: **Leila Shayegan** def. **Yuleissy Ramirez** 3-0

Plate: **Tran** def. **Mishra**

Squash Tournaments in February-Signups Now!



Squash fans have three great opportunities to play competitive / tournament squash soon! Full details and applications can be found at www.ma-squash.com.

State Softball Championships

February through April

Venue: Various Clubs - Boston area

Divisions: All Open & Women's Skill Level's, Men's & Women's Age Groups

This is the annual MA Squash tournament, a fantastic event that had over 450 singles entrants last year. Tourney is a benefit to all MA Squash members who can enter for free. Matches are self-scheduling through the semi-final round, followed by a finals gala night for all members and entrants to come watch! This is another good way for MA Squash members to get competitive matches with other players and see how far you can go in your flight. Players can enter multiple flights as appropriate. Signup deadline is Feb 1.

Cross Courts Open

Saturday, February 7

Venue: Cross Courts Squash & Fitness Center, Natick

Divisions: Open Skill Levels: 5.5, 4.5, 4.0, 3.5, 2.5

This is a new one-day event, attractive to those with busy schedules. Come play at the beautiful new Cross Courts facility and get some great matches on a squash-packed Saturday. This is for all the skill level flights... for those of you who might not qualify to enter "A Mature Event!" Signup deadline is Feb 3.

A Mature Event

Saturday/Sunday, February 7-8

Venue: Maugus Club, Wellesley

Divisions: Men 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ 70+, 75+, and Women 40+ (A/B Level), Women 40+ (C Level)

This two-day event is a long standing tradition. This is a big draw every year and quite popular, as evidenced by the many returning/loyal entrants. Newly-qualified players are most welcome! Not "mature" enough to enter this tourney? Then enter the Cross Courts Open! Signup deadline is Feb 3.

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