

Mass Squash News



Massachusetts Squash Newsletter

President's Letter

This newsletter marks the end of another good squash season. The fall/winter leagues and state tournaments are now behind us, the juniors are off to summer camps, and the more relaxed summer league season has started. We are thrilled to have so much great squash going on in Massachusetts. Some of the highlights noted in our Annual Meeting held in May are mentioned below.

We had 90 fall/winter and summer league teams this season, up from 74 last year! Interest in the leagues and team squash continues to grow. 21 clubs sponsored teams, allowing players to play matches on a reciprocal basis at their own and opponents' clubs. This is clear evidence of the partnership and commitment Boston area clubs have for the game.

We had increased participation in our annual state tourneys, with 525 entrants in the spring singles tourneys, 110 teams in the hardball doubles tourney, and 32 teams in the softball doubles tourney.

We had many offerings for juniors, one of the best overall programs in the nation. MA Squash ran 8 sanctioned tournaments (several at the national level), offered free Junior League round robin programs (one set for high school players, and one set for beginner-to-intermediate players) and sponsored clinics for 16 juniors with touring pros last September.

We sponsored 2 referee clinics this year, one at Cross Courts, one at Cambridge Athletic.

We saw the return of pro-level squash to the area, with 3 tourneys held at Cross Courts: a Men's tourney last September, and a Women's tourney and then a Men's tourney this May. And both Event Engine and US Pro Squash are planning events for next fall! There are articles inside with more info, and watch our website in the coming months for listings.

And MA Squash membership increased to 1,250, up 15% from last year, largely reflecting the growth in our leagues, tourneys, and junior programs.

Of course, MA Squash wouldn't be what it is without volunteers. We saluted 120 volunteers in this year's yearbook and thank them for their contribution. In particular, we thank our outgoing board members for their tremendous contribution for this and prior years: Paul Chastanet (Website), Eric Kirby (Rules/Communications), Chris Lang (Open Tournaments), and Preston Quick (Pro Liaison). While they are stepping off the board, we know they will continue to support us as volunteers. And welcome to our incoming/new board members: Kevin Hollister (Open Tournaments), Mike Loucks (Communications), Dan Roberts (Pro Liaison), and Peg Sestrich (Website).

This issue captures many of the good squash events from recent months. Read and enjoy. And hope you have a great summer!

Dan Reagan
President

About Massachusetts Squash

Massachusetts Squash ("MA Squash") exists to promote the game of squash in the state. Activities include coordinating fall/spring and summer leagues in the greater Boston area, running an annual statewide sanctioned multi-flight singles softball tournament, running annual softball and doubles tournaments, coordinating 8 annual sanctioned junior tournaments, coordinating two junior leagues of Sunday afternoon round robins for beginner and high school players, sponsorship and partnering with pro tournaments in the area, support for US Squash and its activities by promoting joint membership in the US/MA organizations, squash education via sponsorship or running of annual teaching/rules clinics, and squash communications via a website, 3 annual newsletters, an annual Yearbook, and by periodic emails to 1,250 members and 2,300 friends. Activities are coordinated entirely by volunteers: a 19-member board, a 16-member Junior Committee, and 82 volunteer league/event coordinators. Operations are supported by a small budget and huge enthusiasm for squash! Spread the word. . . and tell your friends to become members!

2010 Howe Cup in Rye, NY Sign Up Now!



The 2010 Howe Cup will be held in Rye, NY on November 5-7, 2010 at:

The Apawamis Club (<http://www.apawamis.org>)

Westchester Country Club (<http://www.wccclub.org>)

Rye Country Day School (<http://www.rcds.rye.ny.us/>)

The three court sites are within five minutes of each other and have 13 singles courts and 3 doubles courts.

Apawamis has been recently renovated, Westchester has a hotel on site that has 90 rooms for booking, and all facilities have plenty of space and are within easy access of NYC airports. The women of Fairfield County, CT and Rye, NY are eager to continue the great Howe Cup tradition.

If you are interested in joining one of the Boston Howe Cup teams, please contact the following coordinators ASAP:

A: Wendy Ansdell (wendyansdell@gmail.com)

B: Betsy Hargreaves (hargreavesbetsy@comcast.net)

C: Maria Mayorga (mmayorga@microbia.com) or

Dominique Farinaux-Dumas (d.farinaux-dumas@SquashBusters.org)

D: Sarah Lemaire (slemaire@verizon.net)

Note that you must be available all three days for matches.

Remembering Eric Cutler



The Boston squash world lost a good friend when Eric Cutler passed away on March 30, at age 91. Recipient of the 2005 Massachusetts Squash Association President's award for his deep commitment to the game of squash and to MA Squash over many years, Eric touched countless individuals within the local and national squash community.

A life member of MA Squash and US Squash, Eric chaired the Men's C league for years and captained league teams. Both Tom Poor and Lenny Bernheimer vividly recall his grateful and unwavering support of the annual Boston Open.

No one loved a good, competitive squash game more than Eric. He was a regular competitor in the senior divisions of MA Squash and US Squash tournaments. No one enjoyed sharing and teaching the game more than he did, either. He mentored countless athletes during his coaching years at Harvard and later at Noble and Greenough School. All who knew Eric recall his honest and colorful sense of humor, always delivered with a chuckle and that quintessential twinkle in his eye.

Dave Fish recounted that as the Assistant Director of Admissions at Harvard, Eric accepted India's 4-time men's national champion and chose to keep it a secret from legendary coach, Jack Barnaby. On the first day of practice at Hemenway, Barnaby was in for quite a surprise when he figured out who the new freshman phenom was!

During his coaching tenure at Harvard, Eric forged his friendship with Greg Zaff, when they met at an intercollegiate tournament. Greg recalled that what came through, every time Eric spoke about his players, "was his happiness, his humor and the love he felt for people."

Eric's legacy is alive today on local squash courts. Deeply passionate about the vision and hard work Greg Zaff dedicated to establish SquashBusters, Eric always wore his SquashBusters T-shirt with great pride. When it came time for critical fundraising for a home for SB, "Eric expressed his generosity, love for people and commitment to squash all over again by becoming one of the largest contributors to the clubhouse," said Greg. "His presence is felt every day, and the values that he lived by- kindness, caring for others, doing all you can to make the world a better place- fill the air that the SquashBuster kids breathe each day." Eric honored "a great friend and teacher" by donating a classroom in honor of Patricia Wanner.

Into Eric's 80's, Patricia Wanner enjoyed numerous games with him. "Our games became beyond marathon in length, and it was usually I that had to call it quits." Patricia enjoyed every bit of Eric's humor and wisdom as "one of the loveliest chapters in my life."

With his penchant for detail, Eric meticulously followed New England high school squash long after his retirement from Nobles. Every season, Eric and Deb Harrison, Nobles Girls' Varsity coach, enjoyed the ritual of occasional post match debrief phone chats. After one match this past winter, Deb made the usual call to report the results, and that an injured Nobles player would be missing from the line-up for the next match. Eric was confident that she would not be needed, based on his thorough grasp of the league stats. And, in his inimitable way, he was right.

As a talented and sharp birder who always derived great enjoyment from being a "citizen scientist", Eric was deeply passionate about the environment. His contributions took various forms including serving as a director of Massachusetts Audubon and as a board member of Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences.

Eric is survived by Nancy, his wife of 70 years, his daughters Erica Labouisse and Elisabeth Cutler, sons Josh and Abbot, brother Robert, 8 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

---Deb Harrison and Meredith Johnson, with special thanks to Lenny Bernheimer, Dave Fish, Tom Poor, Patricia Wanner, and Greg Zaff.

Jeanne M. Blasberg Receives 2010 Massachusetts Squash President's Award



Massachusetts Squash awarded its highest honor, the President's Award, to Jeanne Blasberg at the May Annual Meeting. The award recognizes service to Massachusetts Squash and the squash community at large. Jeanne was recognized for her outstanding contribution to the game and her tenacious and enthusiastic advocacy for improving squash locally and nationally. Below are some of the highlights mentioned during the presentation. Congratulations Jeanne!

US Squash Chair (2006-2009), and Treasurer (2004-2006). Achievements included

- Adopted sweeping governance changes
- Developed and implemented its first 3-year Strategic Plan
- Revamped the Association's financial structure
- Developed college and high school (CSA and NEISA) partnerships
- Relocated the US Squash offices to NYC
- Re-Branded the USSRA Association as US Squash
- 66% increase in membership revenue and 45% increase in sanctioning fees
- Architected US Squash / National Urban Squash and Education partnership

MA Squash President 2001-2003, Board 1998-2004. Achievements included

- Increased number of New England tournaments sanctioned
- Women's League Coordinator
- Junior Committee member
- Junior Open Chair

Squash advocate

- Women's squash player, Howe Cup organizer
- Junior Squash organizer, parent
- Urban Squash advocate, including being co-chair of the first SquashBusters Derby

Accomplished/enthusiastic player

- Participant in many national/state tourneys: singles, hardball doubles, age-groups
- Howe Cup and MA Squash league teams
- Level 1 certified coach
- Nationally/highly ranked over time, including #1 nationally at W 4.5 skill level once, and highly ranked in the women's age group
- National Champion, 2008, 40+ Mixed Doubles
- 3rd Place in 2010 and the 2009 US Women's 40+ Singles
- 3rd place in the 2009 US Women's 5.0 Skill Level Singles
- Winner, 2009, and 2010, MA State Women's Hardball Doubles Tourney
- Winner 2006 MA State Women 40+, and finalist 2010
- Five time winner of the Boston Harvard Club women's A championship

Bry Roskoz Receives 2010 Ellen Borie Award



Over the years, the Ellen Borie award has come to stand for women who truly contribute to women's squash with their energy, their time, and their "squash spirit".

The 2010 recipient of this award is Bry Roskoz for the following services and commitments to Women's Squash in the Boston area:

- **Women's League Coordinator**
from 2001 – 2009
- **Women's 3.5 league Chairperson**
from 2004 - 2009
- **Developed and Chaired the Women's 3.5 mixed teams leagues**
from 2006 – 2009
- **Provided excellent support to all the leagues**
and especially new women squash players in the greater Boston area.

Thank You again Bry!

Good Allston Tourney

Firas El-Khatib won a close 3-2 match final over **Girish Venkataramani** in the Advanced Bracket of the June 12-13, 2010 tournament at Boston Sports Club - Allston. Down 2 games to 1, Firas adjusted to play mistake-free squash to pull it out. Despite the finals loss, it was a good outing for Girish, who won a tough 5 game match over **Trevor Neal** only 6 hours earlier, after being down 2-0 himself in that one. **Dave Renninger**, Allston squash pro and organizer of the event was pleased with this and the other finals results.



Firas El-Khatib, Advanced Bracket winner, and **Girish Venkataramani**, finalist, in the June 12-13 BSC-Allston tourney.

This 2-day tourney had 38 participants and many good matches. Other remarkable results included **Nate Lefcowitz** winning the Advanced Bracket Consolation draw, despite a hamstring injury, over **Luke Hammond**, **Dave Renninger** winning a tight 3 game match over **James Chan** in the Intermediate Bracket, **Dave Radoccia** playing a nearly flawless match to win the Novice Bracket over **Eric Berke**, and 9-year-old **David Rubin** winning the Novice Consolation with a 12-10 win in the fifth over **Alex Nunez**, who also went 5 games against 10-year-old **Robbie Watkins**. **Dave Moser** won the Intermediate Consolation draw over **Mohan Mathew**, 3-0.

MA Squash Leagues –End of-Season Reports:

OPEN 4.5

Gerry Kirshner, League Chair

It was another great season for the 4.5 league. The league expanded to 12 teams, adding teams from Milton Academy and SquashBusters. Milton Academy certainly made a splash in their first year in the league, as evidenced by Milton's captain **Chris Kane** hoisting the league champion plaque at the end of the season. It was an improbable run for Milton after starting the season off with two losses. However, the Milton team won 14 of its last 15 matches, including regular season wins over all three playoff teams that allowed them to edge into the top four by one point over 5th place Maugus. The fact that it came down to a 4 point victory in the finals over 2 time defending champ U Club was a fitting end to a competitive and hard fought season. The battle for playoff spots was intense and extremely close and the playoff matchups were extremely competitive. The 4.5 league is now looking forward to an off-season of recruitment, intense training and strategizing for how to dethrone the new champs!

Over the course of the 15 week season, every team won at least one regular season match. BSC Allston and Milton tied for the best win/loss record at 12-3. BRC got the most for their money this year, playing 238 games and racking up 4,328 points over the course of the regular season.

BSC's **Ken Leng** was clearly the Top Gun in the league, finishing the season with a perfect 14-0 record, all at #1. Very impressive! In the "iron man" category of matches played, top honors goes to **Mark Dickenson** of Maugus for playing in every single regular season match! Over the course of the 15 week season, **Mark** compiled a highly respectable 9-6 record. There were five people who logged more than 1,000 points played this season. Top of the list is Concord Acton's **David Phillimore** at 1131, followed by **Mark Dickenson** at 1103, Maugus' **Rich Schafer** at 1083, SquashBusters' **Drew Holman** at 1071 and Milton's **John Gilooly** at 1020. On a points per match basis, BSC Allston's **David Renninger** got the most for his one match played. His match took 91 points to complete. Not bad if you think that an 11 point, 5 game match in which every game is decided by an 11-9 score would result in 100 points! There were also six players with averages in the 80s. I have to mention two of these people because they played a lot of matches over the season - UClub's **Todd Basnight** averaging 82 points per match over 12 matches and **David Phillimore** averaging 81 points over 14 matches. No wonder **David** had the most points played in the league!

OPEN 4.0

Ripley Hastings, League Chair

This was a great season in the 4.0 League. We had more teams and more players than last year. Andover put in a team – and actually did a lot of extra traveling, as the school took back their courts in mid-season for an intramural program ... I'd also like to mention **Ben Quick**, a Worcester player who put in a lot of miles to play every Thursday for BSC-Waltham.

Captains and co-captains did a fabulous job, and I'd like to mention them:

Larry Wenglin, Steve O'Neal, Mac Caplan, Justin Cambria, Stuart Chandler, Brent Berc, Jon Hickok, Phil Strahan, Ed

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Johnson, Shaun Duffy, Chris Hesse

THANK YOU. THANK YOU CAPTAINS. THANK YOU PLAYERS.

AND THE SEASON ... was exciting to the end. The fourth playoff spot and playoff seeding were up in the air until the last week of the regular season, and there were great runs by Harvard Club (winning their last 8 regular season matches for a very solid # 3 finish) and T&R (who won their last three regular matches 4-0 to sneak into the top spot over Allston by a single placement point).

The championship final was appropriately tight as T&R avenged their regular season loss to beat Harvard Club for the crown on games, 2-2 (9-7).

OPEN 2.5

Carl Cummings, League Chair

And the winner is ..., and the winner is ..., and the winner is ...

. With apologies (if not royalties due) to Pat Riley, Andover Racquets made the playoffs by barely edging Newton Squash for fourth place and then proceeded to three-peat™ by defeating first place Boston Racquet Club in the semifinals, 3-1, and BSC-Allston (Berke) in the finals, 2 (10)-2 (7), for its third straight championship. Congratulations, congratulations to Andover Captain **Mark Attarian**, who does not seem the least bit bored by the repetition.

New Blood. The league was invigorated by new teams from Cross Courts and the Lynch/van Otterloo YMCA in Marblehead, as well as two teams from BSC-Allston. The BSC-Allston (Berke) and Cross Courts teams finished second and third, respectively and met in the playoffs. The BSC-A (Berke) team won to get to the finals but without a fight, perhaps the best example of which was **Lisa Evans's** victory over **David Lewis** at no. 1: 10-12, 11-9, 17-15, 9-11, 11-4.

Every point counts. Several times during the season, teams had to go to total points to determine which team had won. BRC and Lynch/van Otterloo YMCA, with two matches and six games each, had to, BRC winning, 109-102. In other matches settled by point counting, FoMaMA (Milton Academy) edged BSC-Allston (Ni), 144-141; Harvard Club defeated University Club, 153-143; and Cross Courts defeated Union Boat Club, 163-160.

Special shout-out. Not only was the BSC-A (Ni) team new to the league, most of its members were relatively new to squash. It did not experience the success of its sibling BSC-A team, finishing in last place with an 0-16 record and winning only five individual matches (and one of those by default). But they were enthusiastic and committed to the game and the league and, even though it was pretty clear early on that they probably not make the playoffs, they fielded a full team, home and away, for every match save one (when one player had a last minute conflict). Emblematic was one of the individual victories, where it was reported by Captain **Mary Ni** that "**Brian Bilchik**" [won] an exciting match ... after dislocating his left shoulder and then popping it back in again!" Dedication like that will eventually be rewarded and we look forward to their return, along with everyone else, when league play resumes in the fall.

MA Squash Leagues –End of-Season Reports:

continued:

WOMEN'S 3.5

Betsy Hargreaves, League Chair

This season captured many memorable 5 game battles between several of our top players **Pam Larson, Melissa Roth, Liz Young, Liz Bride, Kara Kardon** and **Chrisy Jones** and too many others to mention. Too many great shots to recap! Leading our four non-club based teams were **Sarah Coffin, Beth Collins, Lisa Evans** and **Liz Young**.

I would like to thank the captains for their efforts with scheduling and fielding teams for each match. I would like also to thank our substitutes **Naomi Bradshaw, Peg Sestrich** and a special thanks to **Meredith Johnson** who battled back from an injury to play for the league. The PAR15 scoring was helpful to elongate the matches to an appropriate length of time and for a good workout, yet kept the matches within the allotted timeframe for the evening.

Many great times were had at the post game hang-out sessions at Cross Courts, Concord Acton and UClub! Thanks for all who hosted.

WOMEN'S 2.5

Sarah Lemaire, League Chair

The W2.5 league had a great year, with 7 teams and 53 players. The T&R team, ably captained by **Christie Driscoll**, improved on their winless record of last year, winning two matches. The usually dominant SquashBusters team dropped to sixth place this year, but their captain, **Dominique Farninaux-Dumas**, was busy with her job (at SquashBusters, no less) and missed a few matches. The UClub added former Maugus player **Becky Lingard** to their roster this year, propelling them to a fifth-place finish.

The top four teams held those spots for most of the season, so the playoff teams were never in question. Concord-Acton finished second, defeating Harvard Club in the first round of the playoffs, and BSC-Waltham upset Cambridge Racquet, the regular season winner, in the first round of the playoffs. The final at Concord-Acton featured some great matches, with **Kerry Wellington** taking the deciding match over **Leslie Koplou**, 3-1.

The state tournament featured a number of five-game matches, but came down to two from BSC-Waltham: **Jimena Velarde** defeated **Debby Carr** in a great match, 3-1, probably the friendliest state final. In addition, the W50+ started up this year, with **Betsy Johnson** playing a brilliant fifth game to defeat **Kerry Wellington**.

Most improved: **Mo Ramage** went from just off the rankings last year to #6 this year. Best comeback: **Sue Hill**, who tore her ACL at the Boston Howe Cup, was in full form all season, going undefeated for the Cambridge team. Ironwomen: **Phoebe Slanetz, Bernadette Dixon**, and **Leila Ripley** played the most number of matches (12 each). **Becky Lingard** played the most number of points, winning 444 of 906 points played.

Best mom: **Jimena Velarde** juggled motherhood, business travel,

and stellar squash play all season to win the state tourney and earn the #1 ranking for the second time in recent memory. Best hostess: **Coleen Phillimore** and the Concord-Acton team. Most improved timeliness: **Catherine Kniker**, famous for her tardiness, showed up early to a playoff match she wasn't even scheduled to play in. Very impressive. She took a lot of ribbing for that one! Best dressed: All of **BSC-Waltham's** players showed up for the final match in matching club t-shirts. The Concord-Acton team was dazzled into defeat. Best supporting cast: **Patty Ma** took all the fun photos at the league social, **Ania Laver** collected and protected the team scores all afternoon, and **Margo Grossberg** subbed for a last-minute cancellation, pretending to be a W2.5 player for one day.

The 50+Boston Racquet Club team again...

Sam Magruder, League Chair

Close... but Boston Racquet Club wins again

Boston Racquet Club, led by the master strategist, **Mike MacDonald**, won the Mass Squash 50+ league championship, extending their streak to four years. Four teams qualified for the playoffs. Concord-Acton was a strong #2, while Cross Courts bested Maugus by 2 points for third seed.

Cross Courts went to Concord-Acton for the western suburbs semi-final, only to be swept out of the playoffs. Will Bigelow withstood a close second game challenge from **Dave McGuire** and won 3-0. **Roger Jones** won at #2 consistently holding off a game **Larry Hargreaves**. **Phil Brewer** played and won the longest match of the night going five in a seesaw battle with **Jim Lillie**. The fourth spot was easily defended by the much-improved **Simon Graham** topping **Dennis Philbin** 3-0. The downtown semi-final featured a rematch of last year's opponents, but this year it was won more decisively by the defending champions. At #1, **Mark Dickenson** started strong for Maugus, beating **Zip Boucher** in four and taking the rubber match of their season series. **Rip Hastings, José Ferrão** and **John Tittman** made sure no upsets would occur as they swept the Maugus threesome of **Nana Poku, John Totman** and **Larry Stone** without dropping a game.

The regular season seedings held up as BRC hosted Concord-Acton in the finals. Captain **Kevin Hollister** brought his top players in a valiant attempt to seize the senior series title. Undefeated **Will Bigelow** bested **Zip Boucher** at #1 in three games, but that effort was matched by **José Ferrão** at #2 winning three games by a total of 6 points over **Dave Phillimore**. **Rip Hastings** started off very strongly, winning a shockingly easy first game 15-7 over the higher-rated **Roger Jones**. **Roger** settled down and played very carefully for the next three and squeaked out a four game win. With CASC leading 2-1 and 6 games to 4, that left the outcome of the championship in the hands of **Ken Weber** for BRC and **Phil Brewer** of CASC. **Ken's** phenomenal retrieving took its toll on **Phil**, who tried more and more difficult shots, but could not make enough of them. Winning one game would have forced the teams to count points, but it was not to be as **Ken** took three straight. Boston Racquet successfully defended its title two matches all, 7 games to 6.

SquashBusters Derby

by Dan Karlin



Think about a typical fundraising event. There is a banquet, formal outfits and speeches. It is a nice event and people go home feeling happy. In 2005, faced with the challenge of supporting a growing program, SquashBusters decided to try a different approach. Up until that year, SquashBusters did not have a landmark, publicly open fundraiser. While participating in the Walk for Hunger, SquashBusters founder Greg Zaff hatched an idea; holding an interactive annual or biannual fundraiser that donors would be excited to attend. SquashBusters staff started thinking. The idea of a Squash marathon was floated and nixed, but Greg's next idea got everyone intrigued. The staff and Board of Directors began preparations for the first SquashBusters Derby, to take place in May, 2006.

The premise of the SquashBusters Derby is somewhat a mimic of the Kentucky Derby. As with the Kentucky Derby, the event, which features squash competition, is always held on the first Saturday in May, but SquashBusters "horse race" occurs in the months leading up to Derby night. During these months, Greg's idea of a "healthy, spirited competition" in fundraising unfolds as 5 person teams with names like GiddyUp, Salubrious and Derby Worthy compete in an online race to raise the most money by the week of the event. Team captains spearhead the charge, rallying the members of their teams to nose ahead of the competition as Derby Week approaches. Prizes await the winners. The team that brings in the most money improves their team by getting the top choice from the stable of SquashBuster boys. The team with the most donations chooses first from the SquashBuster girls. A PSA pro joins the SquashBuster boy and girl, A player, B1 player, B2 player, C player and D player, to complete the 8 person team.

On the night of the Derby, teams play round robin, PAR 9 games at each skill level. Each of the eight courts is delegated to a skill level, so the pro court predictably draws the largest crowds during the round robin. Every game win earns a point for the winner's team, and at the end of round robin play, the two teams with the most points advance to the final. Introduction of auctioned handicaps to play make the final match the most entertaining part of the night. Bettors can purchase these handicaps and saddle players on the team against whom they are betting with them. Handicaps include being required to play with a wooden racquet, or a jockeys crop and hat, or to wear the infamous derby dress and hat, usually given to one of the pros. Patrons can purchase lets for the final. If their rooting interest loses a rally, they can toss a bean bag onto the court and players must replay the rally from the beginning. Once all the final matches are played, the winning team rejoices during the trophy presentation. The first Derby, in 2006, raised \$236,000 and established a model for future SquashBusters fundraisers. The 2010 SquashBusters Derby, organized by SquashBusters board member and Wallbanger team captain Amrit Kanwal, was played on May 1. 194 guests packed the Badger-Rosen SquashBusters building. Many guests sported Kentucky Derby-inspired fedoras, bowlers or checked pants. The featured pros were Peter Nicol, a perennial participant at SquashBusters events, Gary Waite, Dan Sharplin, Preston Quick, Chris Walker, Martin Heath, and the garrulous Jonathon Power, playing in his first Derby. Throughout the evening, our veteran MC John Nimick entertained the crowd with his customary glib commentary and witty barbs. After a competitive round robin, teams Wallbanger and GiddyUp emerged as the finalists.

At this point in the event, there was a break in play to focus on the significant impact of Derby supporters on the kids of SquashBusters. After remarks from Amrit and Teresa Soares-Pena, executive director of SquashBusters, families from the program shared their stories. Maria Galvao spoke about the transformative effect of SquashBusters on the life of her son Rodney, who competed in the Derby and will enroll at Bates College in September. Next, 17 year old siblings Kevin and Ebony Baptista told of the supportive family atmosphere at SquashBusters, and the refuge it offers from their often violent neighborhood. These speeches were followed by the sale of lets and handicaps for the final, which began shortly thereafter. The high level of anticipatory energy for the final was boosted more so by many guests entering their fourth hour of access to the bar. Play on court 4 was riveting. Amrit prevailed over Justin Cambria in a marathon game, prolonged by numerous bean bag lets from the crowd. Simba Muhwati, wearing a donut shaped raft around his waist and inflated yellow swim cuffs on his arms, rallied to beat Dave Adams in the A flight. In the finale, Jonathon Power was unfazed by the derby dress, handbag in his left hand, and sun hat that fell over his face repeatedly. His attack overpowered Heath and left the game score at Wallbanger 4, GiddyUp 4. Although GiddyUp showed the competitive tenacity to win both games in which they faced handicaps, Wallbanger broke the tie by earning more combined points across all matches. Wallbanger became the first team in the short history of the SquashBusters Derby to raise the trophy in successive years. They celebrated with their rallying ritual of pounding the glass back wall and chanting "Wallbanger!"

While Amrit's team of 8 was victorious in the event, his larger team of the Derby committee, players, supporters and guests did even better. The \$273,000 contributed to SquashBusters enable this program to flourish. SquashBusters extends sincere gratitude to every person who donated funds, time or resources to this outstanding event.



From left to right - Yuleissy Ramirez, Martin Heath, Darryl Soto



From left to right - Dan Sharplin, Ming Tsai



From left to right - Michael Field, Lenny Bernheimer, Teresa Soares-Pena



From left to right - Stephen Columbia and John Nimick



From left to right - Amrit Kanwal, Martin Heath



From left to right - Amrit Kanwal, Jonathon Power

Massachusetts State Junior Championships @ SquashBusters March 12-14, 2010

Although the rain fell heavily throughout the week-end, spirits were anything but dampened at this year's edition of the States. Sponsored by the MA Squash Junior Committee and hosted again by SquashBusters, 186 entrants from all over New England in ten divisions began play on Friday afternoon and continued to conclusion on Sunday afternoon. For those few who chose to enter two divisions, the week-end meant almost continuous play and refereeing. For everyone else, it meant at least three matches and a great experience. Our thanks again to the staff of SquashBusters and particularly to all the SquashBuster players, 47 in number, who enthusiastically played and pitched in on all the details.

- GU 11** Champion: **Casey Kelly** (Hartford, CT)
Finalist: **Caroline Spahr** (Boston, MA)
3rd Place: **Natasha Jones** (Roslindale, MA)
Consolation: **Schuyler Edie** (Dedham, MA)
Plate: **Sasha Meszoely** (Boston, MA)
- GU 13** Champion: **Madeleine Chai** (Norwell, MA)
Finalist: **Anne Blasberg** (Boston, MA)
3rd Place: **Doria Chen** (Wellesley, MA)
Consolation: **Gabriela Rodriguez** (Boston, MA)
Plate: **Clarissa Carson-Rose** (Wellesley, MA)
- GU 15** Champion: **Becky Brownell** (Belmont, MA)
Finalist: **Marina Hartnick** (Newton, MA)
3rd Place: **Samantha Chai** (Norwell, MA)
Classic Plate: **Sarah Bell** (Boston, MA)
Consolation: **Katherine Christopher** (SquashBusters)
Plate: **Fiona Ross** (Newton, MA)
- GU 17** Champion: **Addie Fulton** (Stratton Mountain, VT)
Finalist: **Sofia Thierry** (Cambridge, MA)
3rd Place: **Zoe Carey** (Dedham, MA)
Classic Plate: **Dana Rapisarda** (Winchester, MA)
Consolation: **Abby Giannuzzi** (Wellesley Hills, MA)
Plate: **Gabriella Wynne** (Brookline, MA)
- GU 19** Champion: **Katherine Nimmo** (Wellesley, MA)
Finalist: **Ariel Posner** (Brookline, MA)
3rd Place: **Kathryn Grace Kaelin** (Boston, MA)
Consolation: **Ida Kirnon** (SquashBusters)
Plate: **Kadineyse Ramize** (SquashBusters)
- BU 11** Champion: **Patrick McElroy** (Brookline, MA)
Finalist: **Cole Koepfel** (Boston, MA)
3rd Place: **Hayden Cheek** (Wellesley Hills, MA)
Consolation: **Nicholas Cummings** (Weston, MA)
Plate: **Gautam Mitra** (Medford, MA)
- BU 13** Champion: **Timmy Brownell** (Belmont, MA)
Finalist: **Carson Spahr** (Boston, MA)
3rd Place: **Jack Bell** (Wellesley Hills, MA)
Consolation: **Alex Kurtin** (Boston, MA)
Plate: **James Andrew** (Dover, MA)
- BU 15** Champion: **Atticus Kelly** (West Hartford, CT)
Finalist: **Timmy Brownell** (Belmont, MA)
3rd Place: **Tripp Kaelin** (Boston, MA)
Classic Plate: **Benjamin Krant** (Williamstown, MA)
Consolation: **Charles Woodworth** (Weston, MA)
Plate: **Darius Hollis** (SquashBusters)
- BU 17** Champion: **Aneesh Chuttani** (Dover, MA)
Finalist: **Atticus Kelly** (West Hartford, CT)
3rd Place: **Sam Shleifer** (Newton, MA)

Classic Plate: **Kelvin Chen** (Wellesley, MA)
Consolation: **Andrew Linn** (Concord, MA)
Plate: **Aaron Weinstein** (Newton Center, MA)

- BU 19** Champion: **Taylor Foehl** (Williamstown, MA)
Finalist: **Scott DeSantis** (Sudbury, MA)
3rd Place: **Kyul Rhee** (Andover, MA)
Classic Plate: **Max Kardon** (Weston, MA)
Consolation: **Darryl Soto** (SquashBusters)
Plate: **Kevin Baptista** (SquashBusters)

Tom Poor, for the Massachusetts Junior Committee



GU 11: Champion - **Casey Kelly** (West Hartford, CT); Finalist - **Caroline Spahr** (Boston, MA)



GU 13: Champion - **Madeleine Chai** (Norwell, MA); Finalist - **Anne Blasberg** (Boston, MA)



GU 15: Champion - **Becky Brownell** (Belmont, MA); Finalist - **Marina Hartnick** (Newton, MA)



BU 13: Champion - **Timmy Brownell** (Belmont, MA); Finalist - **Carson Spahr** (Boston, MA)



GU 17: Champion - **Addie Fulton** (Stratton Mountain, VT); Finalist - **Sofia Thierry** (Cambridge, MA)



BU 15: Finalist - **Timmy Brownell** (Belmont, MA); Champion - **Atticus Kelly** (West Hartford, CT)



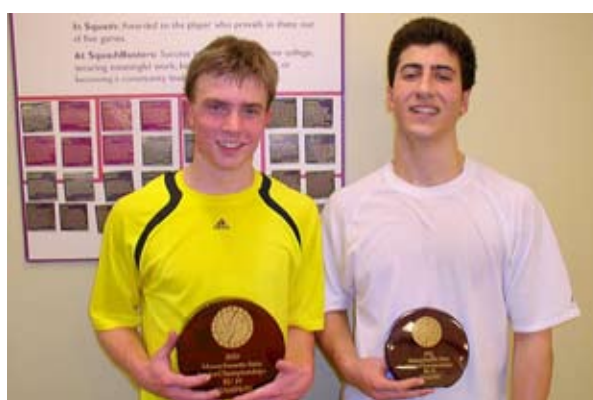
GU 19: Champion - **Katherine Nimmo** (Wellesley, MA); Finalist - **Ariel Posner** (Brookline, MA)



BU 17: Champion - **Aneesh Chuttani** (Dover, MA); Finalist - **Atticus Kelly** (West Hartford, CT)



BU 11: Champion - **Patrick McElroy** (Brookline, MA); Finalist - **Cole Koepfel** (Boston, MA)



BU 19: Champion - **Taylor Foehl** (Williamstown, MA); Finalist - **Scott DeSantis** (Sudbury, MA)

Houdinis!!

2010 Massachusetts State Doubles Championships

How many times did Houdini rise to the water's surface, freeing himself from chains, a locked trunk and ten feet of water? However many it was, **Joe Cortes & Scott Beebe** have equaled Houdini's record with five game victories in the State B's. 2010 was merely a continuation of last year when they won the final in five over **Glenn Prichett & Josh Greenhill**. This year, after losing the first two games of the quarters to **Jon Hyett & Adam Simms**, they edged by in the final three; in the semis, they were down match point to "Whiz Kids" **Ryan Mullaney & Derek Chilvers** before winning the final three; in the finals, they were behind 2-1 in games to 2004 champions **Rob Dewees & Harvard professor John Palfrey** before taking the last two games and the title. For **Scott**, it was his fourth title in the B's, truly remarkable since two have been earned since he lost his left eye in 2002. **Joe** has also won four times.

The B draw with 35 teams was the largest of the States' eight draws which included 143 teams, the largest number since the State Doubles began in 1950. Almost matching the wizardry of **Cortes & Beebe** was the emergence of **Ryan Mullaney & Derek Chilvers**, seniors at Belmont Hill and Noble & Greenough respectively. They surprised fourth seeds **John Frantzis & Jeff Rodman** in five in the 16's, then destroyed **Bobby Harkins & Errin Siagel** in the quarters before missing out on match point to the eventual winners. Also noteworthy was the five game victory of 2006 champion **Jon Hyett** and partner **Adam Simms** over **Amrit Kanwal & Bill Keravuori**. **Amrit** had been on a roll this season with his win in the West draw of the Pro-Am, his title in the Punter's Cup and his crown in the Club table tennis tournament. **Dewees & Palfrey**, seeded third, played exceptionally well to defeat second-seeded **Glenn Prichett & Jon Hartnett** in a five game semi-final.

Another five game final ended the thirteen team 50's event where top seeded **Sandy Tierney & Jamie Fagan** edged second seeds **Malcolm Davidson & Court Chilton**. This one was largely a battle along the right wall between **Jamie** and **Court** since **Tierney** is brutal with his reverse and **Mac** hits plenty of squirrely winners. Down 2-1 in games, **Jamie** rose to the occasion to win the last two at 12 and 10. They were fortunate to reach the finals, squeezing by **John Nimick & Len Zide** in a five game semi. **Len** was particularly effective, having shed 40 pounds in his effort to win a \$5,000 bet to reach 210 by May 13. They in turn had defeated former champions **Tom Poor & Lenny Bernheimer** in overtime in the quarters.

Not long after the 50's, **Sandy** took the court again with **Pat Malloy** to play the A final against **Dan Roberts**, assistant pro at the University Club, and **Greg McArthur**, head professional at Sports Club LA. Although they dropped the third game, **Dan & Greg** were in control most of the time, winning their first State title. They had won their semi-final in impressive fashion over **Chris Spahr** and many time champion **Doug Lifford** while **Sandy & Pat** in their semi won in five close ones over **Preston Quick & Ming Tsai**. Although **Sandy** had some minor leg injury and **Pat** had another trauma on his mind (impending marriage!), neither was cut any slack since these were the States.

Pat had also played an earlier final in the Mixed with partner **Margot Kearney**, a rematch of the 2009 final against **Hope Crosier & Chris Spahr**. The outcome was the same, this time in four games as the women traded cross court drives and lobs. **Hope & Chris** had advanced surprisingly easily over **Jeannie Blasberg & Doug Lifford** in three while **Margot & Pat** also won their semi in three over **Fernanda Rocha & Dan Roberts**. Juniors appeared again in this draw with Stanford bound **Serena Fagan** pairing with her father **Jamie** and Harvard's **Katherine O'Donnell** teaming with **Joe Cortes**.

Margot was busy in the States as she also played in the full 32 draw of the C's. She chose a rather competitive partner in **Jesse Lane**, a former semi-pro hockey player who has taken to squash with equal intensity. They had advanced to the final with only a minor hiccup in a four game semifinal victory over **Rob Erdmann & Greg Jannetta**. Their opponents were **Curt Lefebvre & Zach Harvey**, unseeded and conquerors of defending champions **Dean Williams & Matt Gibbs** in the quarters, then **Tony Simboli & Carson Spahr** in the semis. Squeezing out the first game, 18-16, **Margot & Jesse** dropped the second before winning the next two more comfortably, squaring **Margot's** record for the evening at 1-1.

Carson was also looking to even his record for the 2010 States in the Parent-Child. As noted in last year's review, it was evident he would be trouble ahead for opponents as he aged another year, growing larger, faster and better. Now at 13 he had a good partner to boot, his father **Chris**. The opponents were their conquerors of last year, **Tom & Liam Quinn**. Tied at one game each, the pivotal third game saw **Carson** and **Tom** trading right wall shots all the way to 4-all set 5 when **Carson** put one away to take the game. The fourth was anticlimactic, giving the **Spahrs** their first title. Lurking in the wings, however, is another 13-year old wunderkind, **Timmy Brownell**, who with his dad Bob lost to the **Quinns** in the quarters.

Another busy woman in the States was **Hope Crosier** who played in the Womens with **Fernanda Rocha**, one of the assistant professionals at the University Club. Seeded second, they survived a stiff five game challenge in the quarters from **Sue Greene & Wendy Berry**, womens coach at Wellesley College. They went on to the finals in three over **Katie & Stephanie Hendricks**. In the top half, defending champions **Jeannie Blasberg** and Harvard Club professional **Sharon Bradey** were having difficulties of their own with collegians **Cece Cortes & Katherine O'Donnell**, winning the quarterfinal match by an overtime point in the fourth. In the final they won the first two games in overtime, then the third at 12 to successfully retain their title. **Jeannie** now departs for two years in Switzerland with her family.

2010 Massachusetts State Doubles Championships

continued:

The smallest draw of the tournament was the 9 team 60's. **John Brazilian & Lenny Bernheimer**, four time winners, made it five in easy fashion, not dropping a game in three matches. Their victims in the finals were **Dick Whitney & Fran Donlan** who eked out a five game win in the semis over **Tom Poor & Peter Laird**. **Poor & Laird** a round before had pulled out a five game squeaker over the Harvard Club's **Sam Magruder & Mike Keating**. Another Harvard Club duo, **Jon Sheldon & Chuck Kelly**, went down to the champions in the semis.

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 continues planning 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 171 entrants), and the emergence of younger players bode well for the future of the doubles game in Boston.

Full draws are on the Mass Squash web site.



2010 State A Doubles: Champions - **Dan Roberts & Greg McArthur**;
Finalists - **Sandy Tierney & Pat Malloy**



2010 State Mixed Doubles: Champions - **Chris Spahr & Hope Crosier**;
Finalists - **Margot Kearney & Pat Malloy**



2010 State Womens Doubles: Finalists - **Hope Crosier & Fernanda Rocha**;
Champions - **Sharon Bradley & Jeannie Blasberg**



2010 State B Doubles: Finalists - **Rob Dewees & John Palfrey**; Champions - **Scott Beebe & Joe Cortes**

2010 Massachusetts State Doubles Championships

continued:



2010 State Parent-Child Doubles: Champions - **Chris & Carson Spahr**;
Finalists - **Tom & Liam Quinn**



2010 State 50+ Doubles: Champions - **Sandy Tierney & Jamie Fagan**;
Finalists - **Malcolm Davidson & Court Chilton**



2010 State C Doubles: Champions - **Jesse Lane & Margot Kearney**;
Finalists - **Curt Lefebvre & Zach Harvey**



2010 State 60+ Doubles: Champions - **John Brazilian & Lenny Bernheimer**;
Finalists - **Dick Whitney & Fran Donlan**

Membership Questions

You probably know that any questions about your MA Squash membership can be directed to membership@ma-squash.org (or, if you prefer, to us at PO Box 51611, Boston, MA 02205-1611) but did you know that we can also often answer questions about your US Squash membership? And, if we don't already have the answer, we know where to get it. Therefore, if you have any questions about, or problems with, your MA. or US Squash membership, send them to us and we will deal with them promptly.

How Do You Get the News?

The MA Squash News is published online at the Massachusetts Squash web site, www.ma-squash.org, and is also printed and mailed to members who request it. The MA Squash membership application includes a place for members to indicate their preference but we don't get similar information for members who join or renew through US Squash. If a member's preference isn't known, a copy is mailed.

If you are receiving the News by mail but would prefer just to read it on line, or if you are not receiving a printed copy but would like to in the future, please [let us know by sending a note to membership@ma-squash.org](mailto:membership@ma-squash.org)

US PRO SQUASH presents "THE NEW ENGLAND OPEN"

by Joe McManus

The women's world tour returned to the Boston area this May as US Pro Squash hosted the New England Open at Cross Courts Squash Club in Natick. The event attracted 27 players from 17 different countries. US Pro Squash CEO and Massachusetts resident **Joe McManus** said he was pleased with the event. "We had received strong encouragement from fans of women's squash to bring the women's tour to the Boston area. Dan Reagan, MA. Squash President, in particular, was very supportive in making this event happen," noted **McManus**. "We were pleased to have been able to showcase such a talented draw of world class female players."

Local players competing in the event included: **Fernanda Rocha** (University Club), **Belkys Velez** (Cross Courts/ Tufts), **Szilvi Szombati** (Lynch-van Otterloo YMCA), **Wendy Ansdell** (Concord Acton), **Hope Prockop** (Groton) and **Cece Cortes** (Harvard University). **Hope Prockop** advanced the furthest in the draw, ultimately falling in the quarter finals to Brazilian National Champion **Thaisa Serafini**.

The Championship match featured the top two seeds **Amanda Sobhy** and **Olivia Blatchford**. Both are members of the U.S. National Team and are quickly moving upwards in the world rankings. **Sobhy** advanced to the finals with a 3-0 win over Guyana National Champion Nicolette Fernandes. **Blatchford** advanced to the finals with a 3-1 win over Brazilian #1 **Thaisa Serafini**. **Sobhy** fought back from 2-0 games down and a 9-8 deficit in game three to battle back and win the Championship. In doing so, she became the first woman to win four WISPA World Tour titles before her 17th birthday. Scores were (5),(8),9,6,6.

It was only two weeks prior that **Sobhy** upset the top seed in the final of the Racquet Club International in St Louis to clinch her third Tour crown, thereby overtaking Malaysia's reigning world number one **Nicol David's** two-title record established as a 16-year-old in July 2000.

When questioned after her historic success in Natick, the modest **Sobhy** said: "I am a bit lucky to have come back from 2/0 down to win 3/2.

"But I am definitely ecstatic to have won my fourth WISPA title, because these wins are something no one can take away from me!

"I've been having such a great run from all these tournaments that I built up a lot of confidence - but I'm glad to be done now with tournaments so I can take a break and train."

Immediately following the women's tournament, the main draw of the men's New England Open began and featured top local players battling against touring world pros.

The men's New England Open hosted qualifying tournaments in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Local champions were **Kush Mahan** (ME), **Dan Roberts** (MA), **Vijay Chitnis** (RI), and **Scott Arnold** (CT).

Dan Sharplin, head pro at Cross Courts, surprised many spectators with his strong performance in the tournament. **Dan** has been training hard and won another U.S. 35+ National Championship. In doing so he ascended to the top of the U.S. Squash rankings and is now their #1 rated player in his age group.

Sharplin advanced to the semis where he faced off against 4-time reigning Canadian National Champion **Shahier Razik**. In a match that saw both players moving well, **Razik's** fitness ultimately proved to be too much for **Sharplin** and **Razik** won 3-1.

In the opposite side of the draw, Former World #1 **John White** matched up against '08 Egyptian National Champion **Wael El Hindi**. The two have a long history of spirited matches and this would be no different, as they both exhausted the US Pro Squash tour's five allocated lets. All fans in the stands were pleased that World Certified Referee **Mike Riley** was presiding because both players made strongly worded and spirited appeals to the referee. **Riley** was strong in his calls and maintained order. Ultimately **White** prevailed 12-10 in game 5 to advance to the finals.

The Championship match featured explosive shot making by **White**, who holds the world record for hitting the fastest squash shots in history. At one point, **Razik** turned to the crowd and asked if anyone saw these shots, "because I certainly cannot." The crowd roared with laughter and delight.

Razik is the fittest and most patient player in the world. His strategy on this night was to let **White** punch himself out, and it worked. **White's** perfect kills shots eventually started to find the tin and he became increasingly frustrated with the result. **Razik** prevailed in four: (9), 9, 9, 3 and won the Championship.



(L to R) Amanda Sobhy Joe McManus



(L to R) Jon Greer, Canadian National Champion Shahier Razik, Tony Cooper, Dan Reagan

State Singles Champions and Finalists



Women's 2.5: Finalist - **Debby Carr** (BSC-Waltham);
Champion - **Jimena Velarde** (BSC-Waltham)



Women's 50+: Finalist - **Kerry Wellington** (BSC-Waltham);
Champion - **Betsy Johnson** (Harvard Club)



Women's 3.5: Finalist - **Bry Roskoz** (University Club);
Champion - **Phoebe Anderson** (Boston Racquet Club)



Women's 40+: Finalist - **Jeannie Blasberg** (University Club);
Champion - **Wendy Ansdell** (Concord-Acton)



Women's 4.5: Finalist - **Hope Prockop** (Concord-Acton);
Champion - **Fernanda Rocha** (University Club)



Men's 70+: Champion - **Lew Holmes** (Maugus Club); Finalist -
Douglass Lee (Cambridge Athletic Club)

State Singles Champions and Finalists

continued:



Men's 65+: Champion - **Dan Hogan** (University Club); Finalist - **Jonathan Smith** (Union Boat Club)



Men's 50+: Champion - **Willard Bigelow** (Concord-Acton); Finalist - **Bill Kaplan** (Harvard University Murr Center)



Men's 60+: Champion - **Bob Loring** (Union Boat Club); Finalist - **Tom Quinn** (Harvard Club)



Men's 45+: Champion - **Scott Poirier** (University Club); Finalist - **Willard Bigelow** (Concord-Acton)



Men's 55+: Champion - **Sam Thayer** (University Club); Finalist - **Christopher Fox** (Union Boat Club)



Men's 40+: Champion - **Doug Lifford** (University Club); Finalist - **Michel Bayard** (Boston Racquet Club)

State Singles Champions and Finalists

continued:



Men's 35+: Champion - **Doug Lifford** (University Club); Finalist - **Suki Singh** (Sports Club LA)



Men's 4.0: Finalist - **Jesse Lane** (University Club); Champion - **Justin Segalini** (Tennis & Racquet Club)



Men's 2.5: Finalist - **Tim Galligan** (Boston Racquet Club); Champion - **Scott Marimow** (Sports Club LA)



Men's 4.5: Finalist - **Chris Kane** (Milton Academy); Champion - **Sarat Gaddipati** (MIT)



Men's 3.5: Finalist - **Brenden Mullen** (Boston Racquet Club); Champion - **Adam Brinch** (Tennis & Racquet Club)



Men's 5.5: Finalist - **Dan Roberts** (University Club); Champion - **Dan Sharplin** (Cross Courts)

“Showdown@Symphony” Pro-Event this September!

Boston will see the return of top-level pro squash this September. In a one-night gala event, 4 players who have all recently held the world #1 ranking will be competing in a fast paced, short match elimination tournament.

The event will be held at the beautiful Symphony Hall, Boston, with plenty of seating for a grand night of squash. Seating next to the glass court will be “Boston Pops” style, and with plenty of other great standard floor and balcony seating all around.

Absent injury or any unforeseen circumstances, the players will be:

Rami Ashour (Egypt). Only 23 years old, Rami is the current world #2 (recently #1) and one of the most exciting new players to burst on the squash scene. He is the second player in history to win both the junior and senior world titles. This super-talented man has already garnered 15 titles to his credit, and will be a dominant force in pro squash for years to come.

Amr Shabana (Egypt). The current world #3, Amr is one of the most stylish players in the modern game. Having held the #1 spot for 33 months and with 26 titles to his credit, this 31 year old left-hander is still on top of the world scene. Winner of the 2009 World Open.

Greg Gaultier (France). Currently ranked world #5, Greg known for his superior fitness and technical mastery of the game. He was world #1 in 2006, has won 16 titles, and has been in the world top 10 ever since.

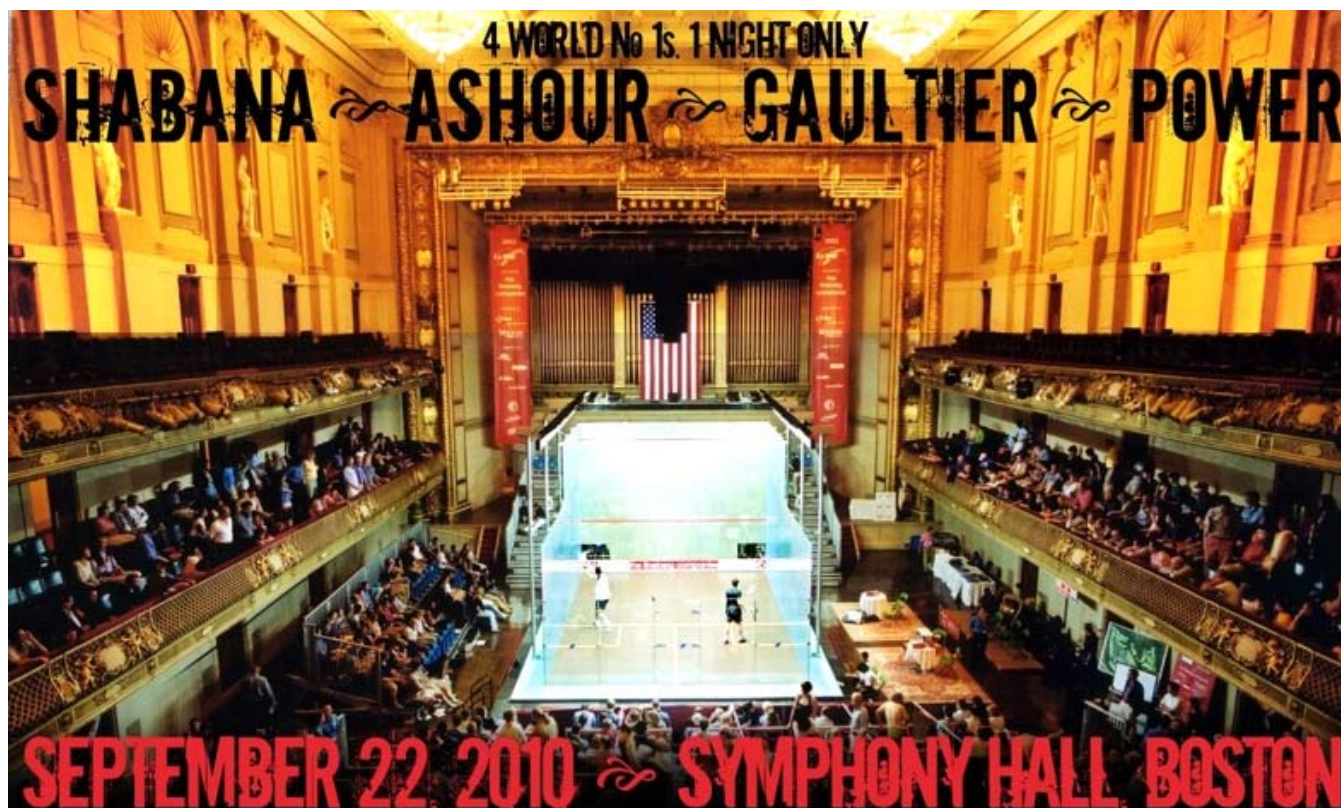
Jonathon Power (Canada). This sage 36 year old is North America's most successful player ever, with 32 titles to his credit, and well remembered for some of the most exciting squash played in the modern era. One of the greatest shotmakers ever, his play is still at the top level, as proven with some recent exhibitions. Retired as world #1 in 2006.

In its efforts to promote and bring pro-level squash to the Boston area, MA Squash will be a Silver Sponsor, obtaining a limited number of premium seats for resale. Prices/seating will fit all budgets for an event of this kind.

A “Junior Jam” will accompany this event the next day, to give some juniors a chance to compete in a related event. All profits above a certain level will benefit the SquashBusters program.

Boston saw some great pro-level squash this past year, but not with this caliber of players. Make sure to check out this fantastic opportunity to see the best of the best.

Tickets and more information can be obtained at: www.squashshowdown.com



US Championships Coming to Massachusetts!

US Squash just announced the US Championships schedule for the 2010-2011 season. Seven of the 19 tourneys will be held in Massachusetts. You can see the full schedule on the US Squash website, www.ussquash.com. Simply click on the Tournaments link and select Event Type "U.S. Championship." And you can see all tourneys coming to our area by selecting State "MA." Take advantage of this great opportunity to play in national level tournaments when in town!

Dates	Tournament	Location	Flights
12-18-10 12-21-10	U.S. Junior Open Squash Championships	Harvard Murr Center, Boston	BU11, BU13, BU15, BU17, BU19, GU11, GU13, GU15, GU17, GU19
2-18-11 2-20-11	U.S. Hardball Squash Championships	Union Boat Club, Boston	M45+, M50+, M60+, M65+, M70+, M75+, M80+, MOpen, M85+
4-1-11 4-3-11	U.S. Championships (Men's and Women's Closed)	Harvard Murr Center, Boston	MOpen, WOpen
4-1-11 4-3-11	U.S. Masters Squash Championships (Open Age Division)	Harvard Murr Center, Boston	M35+, M40+, M45+, M50+, M55+, M60+, M65+, M70+, M75+, M80+, W35+, W40+, W45+, W50+, W55+, W60+, Gold Patron, Silver Patron, Bronze Patron
4-8-11 4-10-11	U.S. Junior Silver Squash Championships	Williams College, Williamstown	BU11, BU13, BU15, BU17, BU19, GU11, GU13, GU15, GU17, GU19
5-13-11 5-13-11	National Parent-Child Squash Championships	University Club, Boston	Open Parent / Child Doubles, U17 Parent / Child Doubles, U13 Parent / Child Doubles
5-13-11 5-15-11	U.S. Sibling Doubles Squash Championships	University Club, Boston	Brother-Brother Doubles, Brother-Sister Doubles, Sister-Sister Doubles

Junior Special Awards



Most Improved - Boy: **Spencer Anton**



Most Improved - Girl: from left to right **Madeleine P. Chai & Samantha Chai**



Sportsmanship - Boy: **Max Kardon & Randy Coplin**

Camp Scholarship Recipients

Princeton Squash Camp -
Henry Santana

Amherst Powers Squash Camp -
Aaron Cos, Randy Coplin

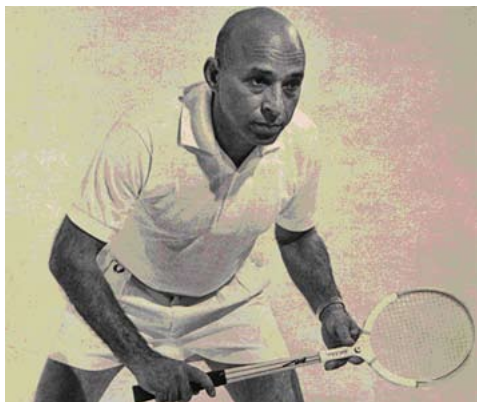
Hotchkiss Nicol Academy -
Keven Depina, Paulo Da Moura

University Club Squash Camp -
**Joshua Figuero, Benny Sanquintin,
William Fernades, Raudy Perez**



Sportsmanship Girl: **Addie Fulton**

Hashim Kahn



***Good attendance to view Hashim Khan documentary film:
by Dan Reagan***

The legendary Hashim Khan, the first of the famous Khan squash dynasty, is the subject of an excellent new documentary by Josh Easdon. MA Squash was one of the early contributors to this effort that was years in the making.

MA Squash sponsored a free showing of the 80-minute film March 24 at the University Club for about 85 attendees. Beth Rasin, the film's producer, provided comments after the showing, including some stories about Mr. Khan, who cooperated with the film's making. Now about 96-98 years old, Hashim is still going strong! Beth recounted several examples of this man known for his charisma and great sense of humor.

If you are not familiar with Hashim Khan, or the Khan dynasty, you should be. The film recounts how in 1951, an unknown squash player from the newly formed country of Pakistan stunned the squash world when he won the British Open and changed the sport forever. He won the British - then the equivalent of the world championship - 6 straight times, and is considered possibly the greatest squash player of all time. Hashim Khan was one of those rare, extraordinary champions - like Pele and Muhammad Ali - whose impact transcended the boundaries of his sport.

"Keep Eye on Ball" follows the remarkable life of Pakistan's first national hero and worldwide squash icon. Hashim Khan's passion for squash has taken him on an eight-decade journey crossing economic, geographic and generational boundaries and transcending social, cultural and religious biases. A devout Muslim and proud Pashtun, Hashim's fierce competitive instincts, discipline and charisma fueled his unique life journey as the father of modern squash and Pakistan's first national hero.

Also attending the event was Henri Salaun, who managed to beat Hashim in the North American Open in 1954, a shocking result at the time. Mr. Salaun has lost none of his memories of that match, sharing some humor and some suggested edits to that particular portion of the film during the remarks section! This was a good event. Ms. Rasin said they hope to have the film shown on one of the cable channels soon. More info at: www.squashfilms.com



From left to right **Henri Salaun** and **Beth Rasin**. Photo Courtesy of Heidi Vail Photography, www.heidivail.com

2010 MA State Softball Doubles Championships

This year's Massachusetts State Softball Doubles Tourney Finals were held at The Maugus Club on Saturday, April 17th, followed by a nice buffet dinner. Tourney Chair Dave Heather was pleased that the number of entrants was up this year (32 teams) and looks forward to a bigger and even better tourney next year. Congratulations to the Winners and Finalists!

Open 5.5 Softball Doubles Winners: **Ilan Oren / Suki Singh**
Open 5.5 Softball Doubles Finalists: **Sharon Bradey / Brad Mosier**

Open 4.5 Softball Doubles Winners: **Barclay Douglas / George Lyons**
Open 4.5 Softball Doubles Finalists: **Gifford Sommerkamp / Belkys Vélez**

Open 3.5 Softball Doubles Winners: **Randy Bock / Steve Tobolsky**
Open 3.5 Softball Doubles Finalists: **Art Bull / Simon Graham**



4.5 Finals matchup: **Gifford Sommerkamp, Belkys Vélez, George Lyons, and Barclay Douglas**



3.5 Finalists: **Art Bull and Simon Graham**



4.5 Finals match action



3.5 Winners: **Steve Tobolsky and Randy Bock**

Chef Ming Tsai Brings his Love of Squash to Boston's Symphony Hall

Popular celebrity chef, and himself an impressive player, to host sport's inaugural "Champions Challenge".

BOSTON July 8, 2010 It only made sense to squash impresario John Nimick to tap Boston's most accomplished and athletic celebrity chef to serve as host of the squash world's inaugural World Squash Champions Challenge competition. Tsai shares, "I'm the first to admit I'm a fan of both the vegetable and the sport."

Nimick, founder of Squash Engine, Inc., and producer of the squash world's iconic Tournament of Champions held in New York City's Grand Central Terminal, quips, "Showdown at Symphony" offers the perfect recipe for fast-paced squash from the world's top ranking players served up with the perfect event pairing Ming Tsai. He knows the game and he's a terrific entertainer. Guests are definitely in for a 5-star evening.

Host and executive producer of the popular PBS cooking show "Simply Ming," Tsai is the consummate renaissance man. He holds a mechanical engineering degree from Yale and studied at the Cordon Bleu. He earned a master's in Hotel Administration and Hospitality Marketing from Cornell University, honing his skills as the food and beverage director at Hotel-Intercontinental Chicago. But it was his love of east-west cuisine that ultimately landed him in Boston where he established his three-star restaurant, Blue Ginger.

Tsai, who will prepare a special nosh for guests attending Showdown at Symphony, describes the cuisine as follows, "My food is based on the ingredients and cooking techniques of both the East and West." Too often, however, so-called fusion cooking produces chaos on the plate and in the mouth. To avoid this, I have and maintain an enormous respect for each culture's ingredients and traditional techniques.

When not creating in the kitchen or placing the perfect drop shot just above the tin, Tsai lends his time to SquashBusters, the official charity of the World Squash Champions Challenge, Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Cam Neely Foundation, Greater Boston Food Bank and he is the national spokesperson for the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN).

Set for Wednesday, September 22, 2010, Ming will serve as emcee for "Showdown at Symphony." The action-packed night will bring together 2010 World No. 1 Ramy Ashour (Egypt), 2009 World No. 1 Gregory Gaultier (France), 2008 and 2007 World No. 1 Amr Shabana (Egypt) and fan-favorite and World No. 1 of 2006, Jonathon Power, to compete in a short match shootout for the sport's first "World Champions Challenge" title.

Symphony Hall will be configured much like a boxing arena with the all-glass court placed up on a stage in the middle of the floor. Four-seat Pops tables will surround the court and all floor guests will enjoy a fabulous complimentary menu to further enhance the evening. An additional 1,100 tickets in the two balconies will also be available.

For tickets and information, please visit www.squashshowdown.com . Sponsorship, Patron and Group packages are available now. Individual tickets now on sale through the BSO Box Office (www.BSO.org).

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Chef Ming Tsai

Belmont Hill Squash by Robert Brownell

This is my fifth year coaching Belmont Hill squash. I teach mathematics, and I came into the squash position after twenty-five years of coaching hockey. I offer a brief synopsis of my journey as a disclaimer because I remain awed by so many coaches and professionals who dwarf my level of experience. Still, I understand the game fairly well and I'm happy to share some impressions as both a coach, and more recently as a squash parent. Please note that my observations pertain ONLY to my team and that other secondary school coaches probably have profoundly different approaches with theirs.

My primary thought is that squash is a very intimate experience and the highly competitive nature of the sport often reveals both the core, and occasionally the extremes in one's personality. I have come to know my individual players for their flaws and strengths, and they me, particularly well over the course of a season. Most other team sports offer a subtly different dynamic in that the individual is secondary to the collective. My team's current goals represent a spectrum both individual and collective. For matches against rival schools, my players' initial focus appears to be more inward, yet they offer tremendous support for their teammates after their own match is over. After five years, I will offer that team accomplishments are clearly more satisfying to the kids than an individual win in any particular dual match.

Regarding strategic advice during the heat of battle, most squash coaches, including me, will stress the predictable fundamentals involving depth, patience, and percentage. Fending off the line "how can a reverse corner be the wrong shot if I just won the point with it?" can be delicate indeed. To my thinking, such a moment represents where effective coaching might begin. Similarly, when things AREN'T going well on court, a stable and calming mentor can truly help a youngster regain focus and balance. I don't believe that players can execute precise shots when they are frazzled or angry. Naysayers might argue that Connors and McEnroe are exceptions, yet immediately after their rants, I always noticed their on-court focus and demeanor became almost stoic. A common weakness of developing players is that they throw away ensuing point(s) because of frustration over the previous one. The difference is huge—particularly with PAR scoring. (I vehemently do not support PAR for Junior Squash). A lost point doesn't necessarily indicate a strategic flaw. The next point is entirely new and many teenagers lack the wiring to hit their "reset" buttons before the next serve.

For daily practice, I believe in shorter-timed, high-tempo workouts. Small games in restricted spaces while keeping score typically keeps our players more focused, and I believe in rotating partners every twenty minutes with short water breaks in between rotations to keep them fresher. I also believe that 80 to 90 minutes of up-tempo practice is plenty for a high school player.

Most importantly, I try to keep the experience fun and lighthearted. The painful truth is the odds of making money on the PSA tour are virtually non-existent, even for our elite players. Preparing our kids to play at the collegiate level remains our central mission. The joy of playing on a team lies with the bonds the boys share with each other, and as a coach I try to keep as low a profile as I can. The less dominant I am as a daily presence, the more ownership of their own journey the kids take. The best compliment I could receive from a graduating player is that they fondly remembered their teammates as well as their experience representing their school playing a wonderful sport.



Robert Brownell with family

Mass Squash Racquet Association is now on Facebook. You can find us with the link below:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Massachusetts-Jr-Squash/269318792348?ref=nf>

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National Championships Winners and Finalists from Mass Squash

AGE GROUPS

Junior Closed BU17 Finalist: Liam McClintock
Junior Silver GU13 Finalist: Molly S. Prockop
Open 75+ Winner: Ken Cucuel
Women's 40+ Finalist: Wendy Ansdell

SKILLS LEVEL

Open 4.5 Winner: Nadeem Mazen
Open 4.0 Finalist: Omair Sarwar
Women's 5.5 Winner: Hope N. Prockop

Hardball Singles

75+ Winner: Ken Cucuel

DOUBLES

U.S. U25 Finalists: Fernanda Rocha / Catherine McLeod (NY) - 4/30-5/2/10
U.S. 45+ Finalists: Scott Poirier / Chris Spahr
U.S. 55+ Winners: Sandy Tierney / Sean McDonough (Toronto)
Canadian 45+ Winners: Andrew Slater / Alan Grant (Ambler, PA)
Canadian 65+ Winners: Tom Poor / Lenny Bernheimer
U.S. Father/Son U13 Winners: Chris Spahr / Carson Spahr
U.S. Sibling Open Finalists: Preston Quick / Meredith Quick (Brooklyn, NY)
U.S. Sibling Mixed Winners: Chris Reigeluth / Caroline Reigeluth (Harrison, NY)
U.S. Sibling Mixed Finalists: Suzanne Schwartz / Grant Schwartz (Berwyn, PA)
U.S. Sibling Doubles Sisters Finalists: Ali Rubin / Kristen Rubin

TEAMS

U.S. National Men: Preston Quick - Team finished 12th at World Team Championships – best results since 1983
Howe Cup B Division: Liz Bride (née Brecht) - Played for the Finalist California B3 Team which was shorthanded

Mass Squash News Summer 2010

The Mass Squash News is published three times per year. Massachusetts Squash, P.O. Box 51611 Boston, MA 02205-1611

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

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

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BOSTON, MA
PERMIT #55490

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