



Massachusetts Squash Fall Newsletter 2011

President's Corner

By Nat Lovell, President



Are you ready to rumble? Our fall/winter leagues have begun, so be sure to join in to test your stuff against the best players from other clubs in our area. Since it proved popular last year, we are again including 3.0 and 5.0 level leagues this season. And we have even started a hardball doubles league this year. In hopes of nudging players to better learn the rules of squash and do a good job of refereeing fellow players' matches, we are awarding bonus points to teams whose players log on to the US Squash website and pass the Club Level Referee Certification exam. It is open book and even a bit fun since it features a few video Let Calls for you to make. I assure you it is not onerous; it took me 23 minutes to complete. Simply head over to ma-squash.org and click on the link named Referee Exam in the left column for instructions. The more players who pass it, the more enjoyable and safer our matches will be.

We were lucky to have been able to help host the World Junior Women's Championships this summer and want to thank the 100 or so volunteers who helped make it such a success. Congrats to Egypt for edging out Team USA for the title! I was happy to see so many of you attend the second Showdown at Symphony in September. It was a great opportunity to admire some past and present world champions right here in Boston. MA Squash also sponsored the Junior Jam giving some of our up-and-comers time on court with these great players. Not to be outdone, US Squash came through with a superb production of the US Open on the Drexel University campus in Philadelphia. Several players commented on how impressed they were to see that America has gotten so serious about making this tournament one of the world's best major events. Congrats to Amr Shabana, who is back in top form,

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Peter Nicol and Nick Mathew play BRC club champions

Contributors

Nat Lovell
Dan Reagan
Tom Poor
Ripley Hastings
Dara-Lynn Pelechatch
Colleen Turner
Sarah Lemaire
Luke Hammond
Anne Bello
Girish Venkataramani
Steve Cuddins
Tariq Mohammad

and giant-killer Laura Massaro on their victories. Be sure to head down to Philly to watch some of the action next year if this October passed you by.

This year's junior program is off to another strong start with the Junior Leagues fully subscribed and several popular tournaments slated to be run again by our energetic Junior Committee. In an effort to reach out to New England's many fine school squash programs, we joined together with new head coach Mike Way and Harvard to present our inaugural Coaching Symposium on November 5th at the Murr Center. While this event was aimed at coaches of beginner to intermediate players, we hope to hold a future clinic targeting club pros and coaches of advanced players also. Stay tuned!

Enjoy your leagues, and I'll see you around the courts!

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About Us

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 10 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 90 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!

Editor: Girish Venkataramani

If you would like to contribute articles to the next newsletter, email Girish Venkataramani (girish dot bhalu at gmail dot com)

2011 Women's World Junior Championship

By Dan Reagan

US SQUASH was thrilled to be given the rights to host the 2011 Women's World Junior Championships ("WWJC") this past July. The unfortunate political situation in February-March caused the host country Egypt to suggest the event be moved until another time. Although there was little time to organize such a complex endeavor, and as the

US has not historically been a venue for world junior championships (only 1 other held in the US) US SQUASH quickly worked to partner with Harvard (facilities) and Massachusetts Squash (volunteers / local organization) and got the OK from the World Squash Federation to host the event.

What an event it was! 120 players and their coaches from 19 countries descended on Boston for 12 days in July. The event was as organized and well staffed as any ever held in the US. The Harvard Murr Center looked great all decked out with country flags and decorations, and organizers were in the facility days before getting everything ready. Massachusetts Squash delivered 100 volunteers to work the event. And it was "all hands on deck" for the US SQUASH staff, who were in Boston before, during, and after the event to coordinate things.

The players and coaches had a great time. The teams were welcomed at the airport by Massachusetts Squash "country liaisons", who answered questions, and were available during the event to offer tips about getting around and enjoying Boston. The opening ceremonies at the Cambridge Hyatt, a number of ad hoc local excursions by the teams (many with the volunteer liaisons) and the closing Boston Harbor cruise, were all full of energy and fun for the players and coaches who were complimentary of the event. The level of enthusiasm and friendship evidenced by the players throughout would set an example for any international event.

Individual Championships: 79 entrants from 19 countries played 160 matches. There were Plate and Classic Plate rounds for players knocked out in the early rounds, so all players got plenty of action. The Harvard courts had more players and fans (maybe 200 onlookers on the busier days) for longer periods of time in this stage, and there were many instances of players rooting for their squash friends from other countries. The final rounds of the Main Draw were as exciting as expected. Nour El Tayeb (EGY) won the World Title, beating Nour El Sherbini (EGY) 3-1 in 42 minutes. El Tayeb was thrilled to win, this being third year of making it to the finals and her last year of Junior eligibility. Amanda Sobhy (USA) had hoped to repeat as World Junior Champion, having won over El Tayeb last year in Cologne, however Amanda was knocked out in the semifinals by El Sherbini in a very tight 3-0 contest. Emily Whitlock (ENG) was the other semifinalist, who also showed great form in her semifinal against El Tayeb.



Nour El Tayeb of Egypt is the WWJC 2011 Individuals Champion

Team Championships: 16 teams played 48 matches in pool then final standing matches. Each country fielded 3-player teams, with some flexibility from match to match for rotating players off the bench. The tenor of the tournament changed a bit in this stage, becoming a bit more tense, with fewer matches played each day, and as the players focused more on their team's chances and hopes. Egypt arrived with the World Championship trophy and planned on taking it back home at the end... and they did... but not without a fight. This was the first year ever that the US team made it to the finals and their best performance ever in multiple ways. Team #3 Sabrina Sobhy (USA) lost the first match 3-0 to an energetic Nouran El Torky (EGY), but then #1 Amanda Sobhy tied the match up 1-1, with a strong performance over Nour El Tayeb 3-1, putting the World Title on the line with the last match! No doubt Amanda also felt a little sweet revenge by beating the World Champion title holder of only a few days... The final match saw team #2 Olivia Blatchford pitted against Nour El Sherbini, but a US victory was not to be, with Olivia losing 3-0. While the US fans were sad to come so close but lose, they left knowing this was the best US performance ever.

Hong Kong, China (#3) and India (#4) rounded out the team finals.



WWJC Team Champions: Egypt



WWJC Team Finalists: USA



WWJC Team 3rd Place: Hong Kong/China



WWJC Team 4th Place: India

Congrats to the US team who showed their best world performance ever: Teammates Olivia Blatchford, Olivia Fichter, Haley Mendez, Amanda Sobhy, Sabrina Sobhy, Maria Elena Ubina, and coaches Jack Wyant and Natalie Grainger.

Final WWJC Team Standings

- 1) Egypt
- 2) USA
- 3) Hong Kong China
- 4) India
- 5) England
- 6) Malaysia
- 7) New Zealand
- 8) Wales
- 9) Canada
- 10) Australia
- 11) France
- 12) Germany
- 13) South Africa
- 14) Netherlands
- 15) Guyana
- 16) Ecuador

Thank you to the Massachusetts Squash volunteers

Phoebe Anderson, Paul Ansdell, Wendy Ansdell, Dan Bancroft, Margaret Bell, Hamid

Benbrahim, Lenny Bernheimer, Wendy Berry, Sharon Bradey, Naomi Bradshaw, Bill Buker, Art Bull, Katie Bull, Tim Carey, Beth Collins, Mike Connor, Sarah Cortes, Carl Cummings, Pauline de la Mar, Vince de la Mar, Martin Deale, Guy DeFeis, Rick Devereux, Tom Durkin, Nour Eldien Eldifrawy, Lee Engler, Tony Flamand, Eric Godes, Michael Gonzales, Tom Haeg, Deb Harrison, Rip Hastings, Dave Heather, Harold Helson, Judi Hindman, Chris Kane, Kara Kardon, Jothie Karthigesan, Taiwo Kuti, Eric Lamsa, Sarah Lemaire, Michael Lewis, Colleen Liffers, Will Lin, Nat Lovell, Jordan Macy, Sam Magruder, Paula Maute, Nadeem Mazen, Kevin McClintock, Libby McClintock, Jessica McMinn, Jornt Moerland, Tariq Mohammed, Yves Montima, Elisabeth Morris, Susan Hall Mygatt, Mary Lou Navin, Susan Normandin, Jim Ogletree, Dara-Lynn Pelechatz, David Phillimore, Patrick Phillimore, Robert Phillimore, Morgan Poor (Assistant Tournament Director), Tom Poor (Tournament Director), Dori Rahbar, Moragh Ramage, Yuleissy Ramirez, Dana Rapisarda, Dan Reagan (Volunteer Coordinator), Hannah Reagan, Mike Riley (Championship Referee), Dan Roberts, Fernanda Rocha, Jon Ross, Rich Schafer, Jack Schultz, Suzy Schwartz, Satya Seshadri, Kerry Shrives, Chris Smith (Championship Director), Darryl Soto, Alex Southmayd, Chris Spahr, Heather Sullivan, Szilvi Szombati, David Temple, Evelyn Treacy, Belkys Vélez, Girish Venkataramani, Steven Vo, Linda Watts, Cliff Wenn, Ana Vera Wynne, Richard Wynne, and thanks to Steve Cubbins of SquashSite (www.squashsite.co.uk/) for the fantastic photos.

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Symphony Showdown 2011

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By Colleen Turner

Showdown@Symphony proved to be a fun and exciting evening, further advancing squash in the Boston community. It was a full house at Symphony Hall with the biggest winner being SquashBusters, Showdown's official charity, netting \$3k thanks to presenting sponsor, First Republic Bank.

"Showdown at Symphony II," presented by First Republic Bank, brought together four star players, the current top ranked players along with longtime former world champions, to compete in a short match shootout for the sport's "World Champions Challenge" title.

Matthew Powers Past Former Champ; Ashour Rams into the Finals

Semifinals

Nick Matthew (ENG, #1) def. Jonathon Power (CAN)
8-11, 11-4, 1-0 (20 mins).

Ramy Ashour (EGY, #2) def. Peter Nicol (ENG)
11-9, 11-10 (23 mins).

It was more like a rock concert when Jonathon Power and Nick Matthew entered Symphony Hall. The Black Eyed Peas crooned "tonight's going to be a good night" and the storied players did not disappoint.

The pre-game interview with emcee Chef Ming Tsai had Matthew exhibiting a small case of jitters. "I'm a little nervous", he shared, going on to say he feared Power's claims of not being as strong a player as he once was might have been a bit of reverse psychology.

Power quipped, "It's not reverse psychology, it's just psychology."

Thirty-eight-year-old Jonathon Power surged to a victory in game one of the Showdown@Symphony II semifinals, but there is a reason Nick Matthew is the world's best. It might have only been a 20-minute match, but it was a good 20 minutes. Neck-and-neck for most of the game, a shot to the tin by Matthew let Power creep up 5-3. A few well-placed strokes and a painful down shot by Power gave Matthew the points to bring it within one.

With Matthew down 5-7, a no let from the ref gave the crowd a glimpse of vintage, verbal Power. His arguments were sound, but, yet again, didn't change the call. An especially pretty drop shot put Power up 8-6, and though Matthew grabbed two more points, Power took the first game 11-8. Seven unanswered points in game two let Matthew win easily 11-4.

By virtue of winning the first game, Power had the choice: best of three or sudden death for the tie-breaker. And never one to shy away from a challenge, Power went with sudden death. A 14-tap rally ended with a let in Power's favor. This was followed by another intense volley, but not surprisingly, Matthew won the point taking the match 2-1 and advancing to the finals.



Peter Nicol in his semifinal against Ramy Ashour

The second semifinal match pitted world no. 2 Ramy Ashour (EGY) against veteran player Peter Nicol (ENG). Nicol shot up 2-love in the first game before Ashour launched an ace that took the crowd's breath away. These were the opening salvos that defined two distinct playing styles. Ashour played his usual aggressive, athletic and acrobatic game. Nicol offered his signature reflective, resourceful and resilient gambit. To say the least, it made for good squash. Nicol was up 7-4, but six unanswered points advanced the tireless Egyptian to 10-7. Ashour offered up two more points, but ultimately took the first game, 11-9.

The second game was fast-paced and after grabbing a quick three points and bringing the score to 5-2, Nicol joked, "You want me all the way over there?" when the ref noted it was his serve, "from the left." Given his hint at fatigue, you would think he was done, but the durable Nicol moved the score to 10-5, before Ashour rammed home six quick points to take the game and match 11-10 in 23 minutes.

Post match, Ashour declared of Nicol, "He still plays very well."

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Ashour Maintains Reign Over World Champions Challenge

Finals

Ramy Ashour (EGY, #2) def. Nick Matthew (ENG, #1)
9-11, 11-2, 11-2 (24 mins).

There's a reason Nick Matthew and Ramy Ashour are only separated by 50 points in the September PSA rankings. They are that well matched. Though an hour long break between matches took its toll on Matthew's play.

Matthew came out strong in game one of the final World Champions Challenge

Showdown@Symphony. He quickly and methodically went up 7-2, but Ashour was not going to go down without a fight. He answered with his own run, knotting it at 9-9 with a volley that included fancy footwork and an impressive racquet flip. But Matthew held on to take the first game, 11-9.

Up 1-love in the match, Matthew appeared not to come out for the second game, losing in short order, 2-11. Ashour was relentless, grabbing 9 points before relinquishing half of Matthew's measly two points.

Tied 1-1, the final game of the match and the evening, once again saw Ashour dispatch Matthew quickly and with no mercy. The final score was in the young Egyptian's favor, 11-2, giving him the victory and his second World Champions Challenge title.

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Ramy Ashour wins Symphony Showdown 2011

Howe Cup 2011

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By Sarah Lemaire

25 Boston-area women flew down to Baltimore last month for the annual US Women's Team Championships, fondly known as the Howe Cup. During the weekend, we managed to break a few traffic rules, crash the men's room at the Meadow Mill Athletic Club, rock some cool t-shirts designed by Szilvi Sombati, dance the night away at the Baltimore Art Museum, sing "La Bamba" to the crowd, consume lots of Advil and ice for our injuries, visit the Inner Harbor and local museums, renew old friendships with former Boston Howe Cuppers who now play for other teams, and make new friends. Along the way, we played a little squash.



25 Boston Women taking Howe Cup by storm: Wendy Ansdell, Isa Restropo, Terri Sojot, Ali Roche, Coleen Phillimore, Dara-Lynn Pelechatz, Sarah Lemaire, Peg Sestrich, Phoebe Slanetz, TonTon Russell, Sue Hill, Julia Morgan, Beth Collins, Jothie Karthegisan. On the floor (L-R): Belkys Velez, Catherine Kniker, Lisa Putukian, Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Maria Mayorga, Hope Prockop, Joyce Dendy, Barbara Berska, Liz Hughes. Missing: Rachel Meyers, Mimi Coolidge.

Boston A, captained again by Concord-Acton pro Wendy Ansdell, faced formidable opposition this year. In pool play, they were 1-1, but in the semifinals, they faced a strong team from Philadelphia and lost 1-4. On the final morning, they played New York A again, where #1 Hope Prockop reversed her earlier loss to Kelsey Engman, but the Boston team was unable to clinch third place. The team was lucky that Hope was able to join the team when Szilvi Sombati had to drop out at the last minute. Joining the Boston roster were veterans Isa Restropo and Tufts coach Belkys Velez, and playing in her first adult Howe Cup, BRC pro Ali Roche. In addition to their singles play, Belkys convinced Wendy to join her in Women's A hardball doubles, only Wendy's second time stepping on a hardball doubles court. They nearly upset an experienced doubles team from Philly in the consolation semifinals! The Boston A players ably supported the other Boston players in their matches, coaching between games and cheering loudly. Where else but the Howe Cup can you get such expert coaching for free? Their encouragement was much appreciated by the entire Boston contingent.

Boston B, with first-time captain Beth Collins, played a tough schedule of five matches against some very strong teams. On Saturday, they had three matches starting at 8:15, finishing their final match after 5 p.m. Boston B finished the tournament winless as a team, but played with pluck and heart. Captain Beth Collins, who comes from the Terry Francona school of coaching, remarked, "I shouldn't have let them drink beer, eat fried chicken, and play video games during our matches." Mt. Holyoke grad Liz Hughes, playing at #1,



Boston B (L-R): Liz Hughes, Barbara Berska, Peg Sestrich, Beth Collins, Jothie Karthegisan

won three individual matches, two of them in the fifth game. Beth and Liz were joined on the Boston B team by Liz's Mt. Holyoke teammate Barbara Berska playing #4, who makes her permanent home in San Francisco, Peg Sestrich at #3, and Jothie Karthegisan at #5. Liz and Jothie teamed up to play in the Women's B doubles as well, losing

in the semifinals to a strong team from New York.

Boston C1 completed the 2011 Howe Cup with the best results for a C team since, well, since the last Baltimore Howe Cup. Catherine Kniker was recruited on the spot to captain the team, and she kept everyone on track and anchored the team at the #5 spot. Boston C1 won all their matches leading up to the final, although most of them were tough, with several five-game matches. C1 eked past Baltimore's #2 C team, so in the final they faced Baltimore's #1 C team, and lost all five matches. SquashBusters' Julia Morgan managed to snag a game in her final match, but the other matches were 3-0. Rounding out the C1 team were Sue Hill, Rachel Meyers, and Mimi Coolidge. Congrats to the C1 team for bringing home the finalist hardware!



Boston C1 (L-R): Catherine Kniker, Rachel Meyers, Mimi Coolidge, Julia Morgan, Sue Hill

The Boston C2 team was a mix of Howe Cup veterans and newbies. Co-captains Maria Mayorga and Dominique Farinaux-Dumas have played in over 15 Howe Cups combined. Joyce Dendy and Lisa Putukian were playing in their first Howe Cup, Lisa having filled the last spot on the C team rosters. Phoebe Slanetz rounded out the team playing in the #1 spot. The team finished with a respectable 2-3 record, defeating DC's C1 team and New York's C2 team, while losing to two other DC-based teams. Maria was the iron woman of the team, playing five matches, four of which went to five games; she won three of them.



Boston C2 (L-R): Phoebe Slanetz,

Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Maria Mayorga, Lisa Putukian, Joyce Dendy

Joyce and Lisa also had winning records in their first Howe Cup. Phoebe was slowed by a calf injury, but gave it her all during each match.

The Boston D team, three of whom were on the winning 2010 team, had mixed results, finishing with a 1-3 record. But the three losses all came down to the final individual match, so they were always competitive. The odd-numbered players, TonTon Russell (#1), Coleen Phillimore (#3 and icing a wrist injury), and Dara-Lynn Pelechatz (#5), all finished with a 3-1 individual match record. Captain Sarah Lemaire and Terri Sojot made up the rest of the team. Boston D finished second in pool play, but due to a mixup by the tournament director, ended up playing the second-place team in the other pool. A new team from Warwick, New York (they play squash in a barn!) was declared the D winner after a lot of confusion. Boston D finished in fourth place.



Boston D: Dara-Lynn Pelechatz, Sarah Lemaire, Coleen Phillimore, Terri Sojot, TonTon Russell

We were lucky enough to have a number of first-time Howe Cuppers this year who were curious what all the fuss was about. Their enthusiasm for playing in this event was contagious, and I think they're already planning their trips to the Seattle Athletic Club for the 2012 Howe Cup. Thanks to Mass Squash for providing financial support to the Boston teams.

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Squash Coaching Symposium with Mike Way

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By Dan Reagan

Mike Way and the squash coaching staff of Harvard held the first of what will become twice a year Coaching Symposiums at Harvard Murr Center on Saturday, November 5th.

The session ran 4 hours and covered all elements of the game: play and rules basics, drills, specific situations, tactics, conditioning and flexibility. Focus was on the practice of teaching: exactly how does one help instruct players, from beginner to advanced, improve their play.

About 60 attended in what all agreed was a great session of instruction, demos, and open/interactive discussion. Participants included high school and college coaches, local pros, and interested parents/players.

Mike Way, now head squash coach at Harvard, comes to us from Ontario where he has coached squash players of all ages for years, among them,

world-class notables such as Jonathan Power, Graham Ryding, and Shahier Razik. He has led many successful symposiums in the past. He has an open/easy speaking style, and he shared with the group specific teaching techniques that he uses for the Harvard teams.

The Harvard coaching staff and a couple players assisted with the event including assistant coaches Reg Schonborn and Luke Hammond and fitness instructor Beth Zeitlin.

Thanks to Harvard University, and Mike Way and his staff for doing this! which included a free lunch.

This kind of symposium offers tips for a wide audience. Don't miss this event when it is held sometime early next year!

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Mass Squash Junior Season 2011-12 Previews

By Tom Poor

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

Tournaments

This year's schedule is posted on both web sites. Locally sanctioned and other national or regional tournaments are scheduled on virtually every week-end from late September through April. The Mass Squash junior events below will determine the players chosen for year-end Improvement and Sportsmanship awards and, as sanctioned events, will count towards national rankings where our juniors have been well represented. We have made changes this year due to US Squash scheduling another Junior Championship Tournament, necessitating our moving Deerfield and cancelling Dana Hall/Milton. We have petitioned US Squash to revise the schedule next year to provide a week-end once more for the latter tournament. The Junior Committee this season will run four major tournaments: the Deerfield Gold (Gold) will be held November 25-27 in their new squash center, the Massachusetts Junior Open@Groton (Gold) over New Year's week-end, and the Massachusetts State Championships



Coaching Symposium at Harvard University courts

Massachusetts Squash co-sponsored the event

(Gold/Silver) in early March. The Frank Millet Championships (a US Squash Junior Championship Tour event) will be run mid-February at Harvard. Home club professionals will run the Cross Courts Silver in late October, the Harvard Club Silver tournament in February and a new SquashBusters Silver event at the beginning of April.

Rankings

Massachusetts Squash rankings for the past ten seasons are posted on the web site under Juniors. The 2010-11 rankings are derived from the national rankings where four sanctioned events plus passage of the referees' test are required. For the second year, the ranking system will be based on where players progress in a tournament as opposed to whom they played as was the case previously. More information on the new system is on the US Squash web site. Virtually everyone who meets the requirements has a chance to be ranked, hence a national/local ranking is always within reach. We are very pleased that so many local juniors are nationally ranked. All tournament players are reminded that they must have passed the US Squash's Level D Club Referee examination to be eligible.

Junior League

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

The Junior League@Milton begins its fourth season and is geared toward older, high school players. These sessions will be held at Milton Academy on Sundays from 3:00PM to 5:00PM.

Dates and sign up information are on the web site - Juniors. E-mail messages to all registered juniors are sent out before each session. Participants should be US Squash members. Please contact Suzy Schwartz: suzy.schwartz@gmail.com with any questions about Junior League.

More information is available on the [Massachusetts Squash web site](#).

Exhibitions and Clinics

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

The Showdown @ Symphony on September 13 provided just such an opportunity as four world ranked #1 players plus four local professionals played and taught 40 Mass Squash juniors at the SquashBusters courts. Different strokes, strategies and conditioning exercises were on the menu for every junior, and encouragement from these superb players made for a very memorable afternoon.



Caroline Spahr, Natalie Madden, Laurel Wain, Shahad Zaman (Pakistan-Tennis & Racquet Club professional), Jesse Brownell, Sasha Meszoely



Lydia Emerson, Losangela Batista, Dan Karlin (SquashBusters' squash coordinator), Sophie Hoffman, Sahana Rao-Chakravorti



Caroline Conway, Callie Bauer, Lily Wain, Nick Matthew (England - 2011 World #1), Jessica Conway, Fiona Ross, Adrienne Conza



Bret Miller, Jacob Koeppel, Peter Nicol (Scotland - 2001-05 World #1), Ruslin Quigley, Sam Gloss



Zoe Russell, Richard Joseph, Ramy Ashour (Egypt - 2010 World #1), Jennifer Mbah, Leta Flores



Darwyn Nunez, Jack Wain, Jonathan Power (Canada - 2006 World #1), Will McBrian, Timmy Brownell, Benedict Osajie



Deven Kanwal, James Andrew, Fernanda Rocha (Argentina - University Club professional), Tarin Karimbaux, Max Silverman, Ishaan George



Ben Sanquintin, Sarah Nelson, Chris Smith (USA - Union Boat Club professional), Cole Koepfel, Morgan Breitmeyer, Zach Meszoely

Other Resources and Information

Web Site

The [Juniors' link on the Massachusetts Squash web site](#) will be the latest source of information on junior activities. The site will also feature pictures and results from events as well as articles. The Junior Committee can be contacted at juniors@ma-squash.org for further information.

Newsletter

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

Awards

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

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

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Mass Squash Adult Leagues Season 2011-12

By Rip Hastings and Dara-Lynn Pelechatz

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2011-2012 Mass Squash Leagues Are in Full Swing!

The winter open leagues are underway, with play beginning for most teams the week of October 17. Once again, we have ten (10) Divisions and a total of 86 teams, including the still-experimental Open 3.0 (Wednesday night) and Open 5.0 (Tuesday night) leagues playing roughly every other week. One of our league goals is to provide for well-organized and competitive squash at every level. Here are a few key considerations.

Skill Level Placement

To maintain a satisfying level of competition in every league, the correct skill-level placement of players is important. Our League Rules are flexible about this. Rule II.C. provides that:

No player shall play in Open or Women's league competition at a lower level than the team of which (s)he is a member, or at a level below which (s)he qualified to play in prior years without the prior approval of the related League Chairperson and League Coordinator, which shall be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

It's relatively easy to identify players who are too strong for a given league after the season has played out ... and at the end of the season, the League Chair can "promote" those players to the next level. It's more difficult, at the beginning of the season, to properly assess new players or players who are improving rapidly.

US Squash ratings are some indication of ability, but they are not always helpful, particularly when they are based on a very limited number of matches. You can get a better idea of where you really fit by taking a look at the US Squash Rating Criteria by Skill and Level, a copy of which is available on the Mass Squash Website ([click here](#)). And you can always ask your club pro to take a look at your game and tell you what they see. If you're at the wrong level, see what you can do to make a change. It's more fun for your opponents and for you if you are roughly equal ... but remember: someone will be the best player in the league ... and it's most likely not you. Play hard and enjoy the match.

Ladders

Our League Rules require that each team maintain an up-to-date challenge ladder (which they should be prepared to share with opponents), and that each team play in ladder-order as of the day of the league match. Rules III.G. and III.H. Many teams maintain an on-line ladder through US Squash, and your league chair would be happy to help out if this is something you would like to do.

Defaults

Our League Rules are also specific about how gaps in your line-up are to be handled. Rule III.I. provides:

A team with fewer than the required number of players shall move all its players up so that it defaults at the lowest position (i.e., 4th position for 4 person teams). ... If a team has commenced a match expecting all of its players to appear and one of the players does not arrive due to unavoidable circumstances, his/her position shall be defaulted. The remainder of this match shall be played as scheduled.

Scoring

So far this season, all three scoring systems are getting a work out. One point of confusion has been in PAR-15: what happens at 14-14 ... ? Since our League Rules have adopted the 2009 Edition of the World Squash Singles Rules, the technically correct answer is: at 14-14, the first player to arrive has the choice of 1 point or 3, and the first player to reach 15 or 17, as the case may be, wins the game; there is no

requirement to win by two. This is only confusing because the 2010 Edition of the World Squash Singles Rules has changed this so that PAR-15 (like PAR-11) is simply win-by-two. Going forward, please use "win-by-two" for both PAR-11 and PAR-15.

Referees and Rules

Our League Rules require that all matches be refereed. Rule III.J. This is not only for the benefit of the players on court, but also for the benefit of the player who is refereeing the match. Please adhere to this requirement ... it helps to improve every player's familiarity with the rules, and makes for better squash.

And don't forget, because we want to encourage all players to read the rules and become better referees, we are implementing the award of "bonus points" for teams in every league whose active rosters have all taken and passed the US Squash Club Referee certification as of February 1. It's not too soon to start. Here's how it is expected to work: more or less like a regular match, each team will have the opportunity to "win" 5 points by meeting the requirement. That's 5 points that will be in each team's denominator of "available points to be won" - for the purpose of calculating league standings - and for those who meet the requirement, they will have those 5 points added to their numerator, as well. Think of it as an extra match to be won for five points or lost for none.

Women's League

The women's 2.5 and women's 3.5 teams are well under way to another great season. Eight teams make up the w 2.5 league, including the newly created Sports Club LA team captained by Melissa Deland. It's really exciting to have SCLA part of league and to see the women's league grow. The w3.5 league consists four teams headed up by the new w3.5 coordinator Susan Greene.

After two weeks of play the Harvard Club and Cambridge Athletic Club w2.5 teams are tied for first, each with 2 wins. Right behind them is BSC Waltham and Newton Squash and Tennis with 1 win and 1 loss each. This is going to be an exciting season as these teams battle for the best positions.

Team Dunlop and Team Prince seem to be dominating the w3.5 league with two wins each. It's still early in the season so we will just sit back and see what happens.

For all the up-to-date information on MA squash leagues throughout the season visit MA Squash leagues at: <http://www.ma-squash.org/leagues>.

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College Squash Season 2011-12 Previews

Compiled by Luke Hammond. Contributions by Anne Bello

See [College Squash Association](#) for more updates and details.

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Wellesley Women's Team

Wellesley moved up a division in 2010-2011 and looks to climb even higher in the national rankings this season. A major change for the program is that they will now be training full-time at Dana Hall. "Prior to this year, we've gone back and forth between Dana Hall (international courts) and our own American sized courts - not an easy feat especially when it comes to playing matches," explains head coach Wendy Berry. "This will give the team 100% practice and playtime on international-sized courts."

Three first-year players will be joining the team and are all expected to play in the middle of the order. For Alexandra Spiliakos, who captained Dana Hall's team, Wellesley's training facility will feel very familiar. Lilly Tyson comes to Wellesley from Germantown Friends, and Rachel Hanscom, who played for Conestoga High School, will be joining the team as well.

Even before the season has started the team has been busy, watching "Showdown at Symphony" and participating in a fundraising walk for the American Cancer Society. The team is also in the process of raising funds for a training trip in 2013.

"The team is a very helpful, sociable, and closely knit group who will look after each other whatever the problem," says Berry.

2010-2011 SEASON RECAP

Season Record: 7-20

Final Ranking: 28

Team Championships: 4th in Epps Cup (D Division)

2011-2012 SEASON PREVIEW

Program Status: Varsity

Head Coach: Wendy Berry

Captains: Margot Sulmont and Emaline Surgenor

Team Goals: to climb higher than last year's finish of 28th

Key Matches: Smith, Connecticut College, William-Smith, and Colby

MIT Men's Team

MIT made it to the finals of last year's Chaffee Cup, but fell short of the E Division title with a 3-6 loss to Vanderbilt.

This season, the team will have the advantage of learning from a number of experienced players. "MIT is welcoming volunteer assistant coaches from the local community in 2011-2012," explains head coach Nadeem Mazen. Squash pro Nasir Sheikh, community member Adrian Gill, former Stanford #1 Sam Gould, and MIT alums Ali Merchant, George Pratt, and Andrew Yoon will all be volunteering their time with the team. "Each volunteer coach is covering one day per week and taking on team mentorship during the season," Mazen says.

The team has lost four players from their 2010-2011 starting lineup, including two players from the top three. However, the team should have some new members stepping into the order. "We are welcoming freshman players from strong public and prep squash programs this year and look to expand even further next year," says Mazen.

2010-2011 SEASON RECAP

Season Record: 5-9

Final Ranking: 34

Team Championships: 2nd in Chaffee Cup (E Division)

2011-2012 SEASON PREVIEW

Program Status: Varsity

Head Coach: Nadeem Mazen

Tufts Men's Team

Tufts has been in the midst of a rebuilding cycle, and thanks to turnover, the team has had to start each of the past two seasons with a drastically different line-up.

Tufts can expect more stability moving forward. Although the Jumbos have lost three of their top four players from last year, this year's squad will primarily consist of freshmen and sophomores.

Six first-year players have joined the team. Alex Nalle (Germantown Friends), Zach Schweitzer (Chestnut Hill Academy), and Gordon Silverman (Phoenix Country Day) are expected to play in the top six. Joe Marks (Belmont Hill), Hugo Meggitt (Princeton Day), and Elliot Kardon (Weston) will be battling with several returners for places in the

starting line-up.

"The team expects again to be in a rebuilding phase but with a team two years younger than last year," reports head coach Doug Eng. "The team's main goal is to keep improving and break back into the Summers Division at Nationals."

2010-2011 SEASON RECAP

Season Record: 9-16

Final Ranking: 27

Team Championships: 3rd in Conroy Cup (D Division)

2011-2012 SEASON PREVIEW

Program Status: Varsity

Head Coach: Doug Eng

Captain: Henry Miller

Team Goals: To keep improving and to break into the C Division

Harvard Women's Team

Harvard has been here before. In 2009, two 4-5 losses to Princeton kept the Ivy League and national titles out of the Crimson's grasp. Last year it was the same story but a different opponent, with Yale winning both the Ivy League and national championships by one-match margins.

If history is anything to go by, other teams should be taking notice. Harvard bounced back from the 2009 season by bringing in a deep first-year class headlined by a standout junior champion (Laura Gemmell), going undefeated, and rolling to the titles that had eluded them the year before.

And Harvard has assembled another talented first-year class, this time headlined by 2010 World Junior champion Amanda Sobhy. Two of Sobhy's teammates from this year's World Junior Championships, Haley Mendez and Julianne Chu, will be joining the Crimson, along with another accomplished junior, Megan Murray. Harvard has lost four players from last season's top 9, but the returners include a slew of All-Americans plus Gemmell, the two-time Ivy League Player of the Year and 2009 national individual champion. The team also includes the first-ever women's intercollegiate doubles champions, 2010 winners Cece Cortes and Sarah Mumanachit.

The team also has two new assistant coaches: former Trinity assistant coach Reg Schönborn and Luke Hammond, who comes to Harvard from SquashBusters.

2010-2011 SEASON RECAP

Season Record: 11-2

Final Ranking: 2

Team Championships: 2nd in Howe Cup (A Division); Doubles Champions (Cece Cortes and Sarah Mumanachit)

2011-2012 SEASON PREVIEW

Program Status: Varsity

Head Coach: Mike Way

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Mass Squash Board for 2011-12

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Function	Name
President	Nat Lovell
Vice President	Dominique Farinaux-Dumas
Past President	Dan Reagan

Secretary	Harold Helson
Treasurer	Sam Magruder
League Scheduling	Linda Watts
Women's League Coordinator	Dara-Lynn Pelechatz
Men's League Coordinator	Ripley Hastings
Open Tournaments Coordinator	Kevin Hollister
Women's Tournaments Coordinator	Maria Mayorga
Yearbook	Rich Schafer
Rules and Referees	Mike Loucks
Membership	Carl Cummings
Pro Liaison	Dan Roberts
College Liaison	Luke Hammond
Investments and Junior Development	Tom Poor
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