

Massachusetts Squash Summer Newsletter 2011

President's Corner

By Nat Lovell, President



With another successful fall/winter season behind us, the summer of 2011 is going to be an exciting one featuring our popular summer handicap league and the Women's World Junior Championships at Harvard. And I just returned from the US Squash Strategy Review where we brainstormed ideas about growing our favorite sport across our country both where it is already well-established and into areas not yet so lucky! Dunlop presented its cutting edge Mini-Squash equipment to introduce pre-schoolers to the joy of whacking balls against walls (in this case, soft oversized foam balls). Best of all, you don't even need a squash court to get them started...any wall will do. I would be happy to relay further information to anyone with toddlers or whose club or school might want to try out the equipment.

Highlights from our MA Squash Annual Meeting include our membership now approaching 1400, up from 1250 last year. A successful trial run of the new 3.0 and 5.0 leagues, and more entrants in our spring state tournies than ever. The most active Junior program in the country built on prior years' strength with over 760 entrants in 5 tourneys of our own, in addition to helping run the Millet Tourney for US Squash. This summer the Junior Committee will again run its popular and free Junior League round robin programs at Harvard's Murr Center.

Sam Magruder has kindly organized another summer season of the handicap league featuring 9 clubs and 101 players! This is a fun, mixed age and skill, co-ed league with each player assigned a starting handicap that gets adjusted as each match and the season rolls along according to results. There are no playoffs, so each weekly match and every point really count! Ask your club Pro for more information if you haven't

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Women's World Junior Squash Championship 2011 is in Boston



Contributors

Nat Lovell Dan Reagan Tom Poor Ripley Hastings Dave Heather heard all about it.

Be sure to lock in some time on your calendar to watch and volunteer at the Women's World Junior Championships being held this July 20-30 at the Murr Center. This event is expected to draw 120 of the world's best junior women players from 19 countries...all here in Boston and Cambridge! In the words of US Squash President, Kevin Klipstein, "I have no doubt it will be an incredibly memorable event - there are not many opportunities to host a World Championships while at the same time having a chance to win it, so we want to make the best of it!" Give us a call or email, and we will tell you how you can get involved.

Keep your eyes peeled for another edition of Event Engine's Showdown at Symphony slated for September 14, 2011. Last year's one night clash of the titans was so well-received, that John Nimick is bringing the show back to town. This is your chance to marvel at the world's best squash players right in our back yard!

And please join me in thanking our departing Board members, Betsy Hargreaves and Merrill Martin while we welcome our new ones, Girish Venkataramani, Doug Steinberg, and Rich Schafer.

Enjoy your summer, 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 US/MA promoting joint membership in the 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 19member 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! Kevin Hollister Szilvi Szombati

Editor: Girish Venkataramani

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

The Squash Artist

Squash A Poem by Zee Shaan

Squash is my way of life kindly don't take that as a joke cuz when someone asks for a let I humbly offer a stroke...

I never play a carried ball, always call the double bounce, the questioning of referees' calls, such practices I strongly denounce...

When I am ready to serve, I audibly announce the score, If there's a dispute in numbers, in their favor, I opt for more...

No point in throwing ur racquet, think of it as a part of ur arm, now imagine if u will in anyway, ever deliberately bring it any harm?

No gain being abusive verbally, try & respect your own name, u will win some & will lose some, in the end, it's all part of the game...

I try to always get out of the way,

to allow them a direct path, never happy getting bumped, hence suffering someone's wrath...

No matter if they're better or worse,

I always enjoy hitting with them all,

because I know I can always outdo myself,

as long as I keep my eyes on the ball...

I can tell u loads about the game, but I'll leave u with this advice, always respect ur opponent & the game, to sum it up: "just try & be nice..."

Women's World Junior Squash Championship July 20 - 30th 2011

By Dan Reagan

The Women's World Junior Championships ("WWJC") are less than 2 weeks away. The first teams are arriving this Sunday.

This is a great event for squash in the US... and it will be fun!

Don't miss this chance to come see the best juniors in the world play.

Three events will be held over 10 days

- Women's World Junior Individual Championships (7/20-25)
- Boston Summer Gold Boys and Girls US Junior Event (7/22-24)
- Women's World Junior Team Championships (7/26-30)

This is a collaboration of the WSF, U.S. SQUASH, Harvard, and Massachusetts Squash. Approximately 120 players/coaches will be involved in the WWJC (from 19 countries) and 220 players in the Boston Summer Gold event. All WWJC matches will be held at the Harvard Murr Courts. Boston Summer Gold matches will be held both at Harvard Murr and the University Club.

Patron packages are available

Help support this event by either buying a **Patron Package** or donating directly. All the major WWJC matches (Quarterfinals through Finals) will be played on Harvard's Glass Court, and only Patron ticket holders will have guaranteed access.

Volunteers are still needed!

Although we have many volunteers already, we still need more! With 3 volunteer sessions per day (morning/afternoon/evening), and running over 10 days, we have volunteer slots to fit most schedules. And don't worry about your ability to volunteer - all kinds of help is needed. Signing up to volunteer is easy.

Just pick a position and a time slot or two, and we can use you. If you have special language There are plenty of US junior Amada Sobhy (left) will defend her skills, let us know. benefits to volunteering, such as free parking, shirts, recognition, and a chance to see some great squash. But most importantly, volunteers



title at this year's WWJC

will know they have given back to the sport and helped make this a great, fun event.

General volunteer questions

- Tom Poor (617-851-0722, <u>tpoor43@aol.com</u>)
- Dan Reagan (617-429-1676, danreagan@me.com)

THANK YOU to those who have already volunteered! A partial list appears below.

Phoebe Anderson, Dan Bancroft, Lenny Bernheimer, Sharon Bradey, Art Bull, Tim Carey, Beth Collins, Dinah Day, Martin Deale, Fran Donlan, Lee Engler, Tony Flamand, Eric Godes, Michael Gonzales, Tom Haeg, Deb Harrison, Dave Heather, Harold Helson, Jothie Karthigasan, Taiwo Kuti, Sarah Lemaire, Micahel Lewis, Nat Lovell, Jack Lu,

Maria Mayorga, Kevin McClintock, Libby McClintock, Jessica McMinn, Roberto Meza, Tariq Mohammed, Yves Montima, Carlyn Morse, Dara-Lynn Pelechatz, Patrick Phillimore, Robert Phillimore, Morgan Poor, Tom Poor, Dori Rahbar, Moragh Ramage, Dana Rapisarda, Dan Reagan, Jon Ross, Natalia Schafer, Rich Schafer, Jack Schultz, Suzy Schwartz, Satya Seshadri, Alex Southmayd, David Temple, Evelyn Treacy, Belkys Velez, Girish Venkataramani, Linda Watts, Cliff Wenn, Ana Vera Wynne, Richard Wynne

Helpful links

- WWJC official site
- Boston Summer Gold Junior Tournament
- MA Squash site articles on WWJC
- Patron Packages

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2011 President's Award for Lenny Bernheimer

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By Dan Reagan

Lenny Bernheimer received Massachusetts Squash's highest award, the President's Award, at the Massachusetts Squash Annual Meeting on May 6th. The President's Award recognizes service to Massachusetts Squash and the squash community at large. Below are some of the remarks made by Dan Reagan, outgoing President, during the presentation ceremony.

Lenny's involvement with the game at Williams. Lenny won a number of national and MA State titles, played



started in college in the early 60's Lenny Bernheimer (second from left) at the Annual Meeting, with some prior recipients of the Award: Greg Zaff, John Nimick, and Tom Poor.

for US teams, and was a highly ranked player at the national level as long as he played the singles game. Lenny took this success into the doubles game, where he has also won a number of national titles.

Lenny joined the Massachusetts Squash board in the early 70's, serving in most of its positions including president. It's now 2011 - I'll let everyone in this room do the math! Lenny was also a key contributor at the national level, serving as president of the USSRA, predecessor to US Squash, from 1984 through 1986. A co-director of the Boston Open, Lenny was the driving force for bringing high-level Pro squash to Boston for over 20 years, which included over the years some matches between Jahangir Khan and Mark Talbott that many consider the greatest they've ever watched.

Despite his tremendous success on the court and with Massachusetts and US Squash, perhaps Lenny's greatest squash contribution has been his work with SquashBusters. Lenny is a founding board member and has been Chairman for 11 years. He has devoted an enormous amount of time and financial resources each and every year of his involvement, including numerous fundraising meetings in and out of state to raise capital for the youth center, and hundreds of meetings, to raise money, meet staff, and honor the students and families. He was the first significant dollar donor to the campaign to start SquashBusters. In the words of Greg Zaff, Executive Director of NUSEA, the SquashBusters umbrella organization, "Lenny, as much as anyone, deserves his name in lights for what SquashBusters has become." Lenny told me recently his involvement in SquashBusters is the most rewarding of all his squash experiences, due to what it does for the lives of the kids involved.

I should not conclude these remarks without mention of some of Lenny's personal qualities. A tremendous human being, he is an inspiration to all who interact with him. And his enthusiastic but balanced inputs to the MA Board provide smart, mature insights to keep MA Squash headed in the right direction. Let us all now join together to congratulate Lenny Bernheimer, recipient of the 2011 President's Award.

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2011 Ellen Borie Award for Azi Djazani

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By Dan Reagan

Azi Djazani received Massachusetts Squash's Ellen Borie Award, at the Massachusetts Squash Annual Meeti

ng on May 9th. The Ellen Borie Award recognizes those who have shown great interest in women's squash and who have contributed significant time to Massachusetts Squash. Below are some of the remarks made by Dan Reagan, outgoing President, during the presentation ceremony.

Tonight we are proud to provide recognition to someone who completely exemplifies the traits that this award celebrates, Azi Djazani. Azi ran the Massachusetts Squash Junior League program for 5 years. The program Azi took on was not the program it is today. What it is today is largely due to Azi's efforts.

The Junior League is a series of squash round robins held on Sundays during the fall-through-spring season for kids to play in a fun, less competitive environment. There are two programs: one for high school kids, and one for kids up to the 8th grade. The program is free to the players, run by volunteers. Today, the round robins are so



Azi Djazani

successful that they are usually oversubscribed, and Massachusetts Squash is now looking to expand the facilities for this program.

To give you an idea about Azi, and why she has had such great impact, I would like to share with you some of the things her colleagues have said about her:

- She is deeply committed to the role athletics plays in a kid's life, in terms of the life lessons that squash can provide: hard work, team work, unselfishness, not giving up, etc.
- She is a great educator and communicator. She has a knack for making all situations opportunities for learning, and makes her expectations clear to the kids.
- She is committed to the game of squash, committed to the absolute best in sportsmanship, wanting to provide the kids with an opportunity to compete and learn.
- She is super organized, and super smart! She is thorough, not one to do anything half way.
- She is patient, and an outstanding facilitator.. helpful skills in the Junior arena.

Her ability to facilitate parent-to-kid, or parent-to-parent issues, and making the kids the focus, is outstanding.

- She is kind, humble and not driven by ego, always open to asking others for their perspective. Those who were consulted for developing these remarks expect Azi will be shocked to get this award.
- And she cares. She would know every child's name, take an interest in them, know something about every one of them, and make them feel important.

Thank you Azi for turning the Junior League program into what it what it has become. Your contribution to Massachusetts Squash, through your dedication to the MA Squash Juniors, is totally appreciated, and we thank you for that. Let us all now join together to congratulate Azi Djazani, recipient of the 2011 Ellen Borie Award.

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"20 is Plenty...": 2011 Putnam Pro-Am Doubles

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By Tom Poor

"20 is plenty" reads a road sign on the outskirts of 'Sconset, a tiny town at the tip of Nantucket. The same thought must have run through tournament director Lenny Bernheimer's mind as he struggled to format and schedule a pro-am draw which this year swelled from 16 to 20 amateurs on this, the 20th anniversary of the professional doubles event at the University Club. It was a special occasion, highlighted by the new sponsorship of Putnam Investments whose marketing department took full advantage of the opportunity with signage, publicity and packages for amateurs and patrons. An additional highlight was a raffle featuring a two-week trip to China from Grand Circle travel and also included china dinner-ware and gift certificates from Chef Ming Tsai. Dinner Friday, brunch Sunday and lots of doubles squash made for a week-end entirely fitting for the 20th anniversary.

The Pro Doubles Championship and its sister tournament, the Pro-Am Doubles Championship, is a mid-January fixture on the ISDA Professional Doubles Tour. With Putnam, 65 patrons and 20 amateur players providing financial support for the event, the professionals competed in both the Professional and Pro-Am tournaments for \$34,000 in prize money. A chance to see the top professionals in the world brought out sizable galleries throughout the weekend. The professionals' power, speed afoot and stunning shots were the stuff of wishful thinking for the rest of us. The finals of both tournaments were played on Sunday with five Pro-Am finals followed by the Professional final. The latter was a dominating performance by Damien Mudge & Ben Gould (both New York) who continued their unbeaten string of victories this season with a three game shutout of Matt Jenson (Kiawah Island) & Clive Leach (New York).

The Pro-Am finals presented significantly more drama. The East Draw final matched the last two unbeaten teams: Sandy Tierney & Greg McArthur (Greenwich) vs. John Brazilian & Clive Leach. Sandy has won this event more times than any of us would like to remember, but he is many times a national champion and at 57 continues to play remarkably well. However, Clive is a shot maker extraordinaire, and after four games, the fifth came down to 14-all. After a long rally, Greg fired one down Clive's wall that got by him, ending one of several five game, one point finales during the



East Draw: Finalists - John Brazilian &

weekend. Sandy & Greg had opened their quest with a three game win over Matthew Kozol & Chris Walker (Greenwich), then a closer four game conquest of Steve Quigley & Paul Price (Toronto) and then an even closer semi-final victory over last

Clive Leach (New York); Champions -Greg McArthur (Greenwich) & Sandy Tierney

year's winner Malcolm Davidson & Yvain Badan (Rye, NY). In the other half, John & Clive opened over Marty Stocklan & Preston Quick (Boston) in four, then squeezed out a 15-12 fifth over Spencer Kurn & Ben Gould and another identical score over Amrit Kanwal & J.P. Rothie (Los Angeles) in the semis. More on Spencer next.



Southeast Draw: Champions - Spencer Kurn & Ben Gould (New York); Finalists -Steve Quigley & Paul Price (Toronto)

The Southeast Draw was composed of teams that won their first match, but lost in the East guarterfinals. The aforementioned Kurn was entered as the Putnam representative, a 2008 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, now a research analyst in international equities. A good singles player but with little doubles experience, Spencer played twice before the tournament's start, then improved steadily with each match. It didn't hurt to have the #1 professional, Ben Gould, as his partner. They won the opener with a 15-12 fifth game over Jamie Fagan & Mark Chaloner (Greenwich), then lost by an identical fifth game to Brazilian & Leach. Their first match in the Southeast draw was a three game rout of Tom Poor & Greg Park (Somers Point, NJ), then another shut out of Price & Quigley for

the title. The latter had advanced in four over Lenny & Manek Mathur (Rye, NY). That tandem won their first match against newcomer Louis Crosier & James Hewitt (Toronto).

Moving to the West Draw with some hurt feelings and sore muscles were losers of first round matches. Matthew Kozol teamed with Chris Walker (Greenwich) and took on home pro Dan Roberts & Jim Hearty in a five game marathon, merging victorious in over an hour (not good when conditioning is suspect). Matthew's dad Joel & Damien Mudge also went five in victory over Hewitt and Crosier. The resulting son vs. father face-off went another five games with father finally knowing best and into the finals. Joel is a national champion, closing in on 81 years old and took the final of the West in a four game match over Errin (Boston) & Errin Siagel; Champions - Joel Siagel & Chris Spahr, our head professional. The

latter tandem had arrived in the final with a rare three game win over Malcolm Salter (one of the



Kozol & Damien Mudge (New York)

five rookies in the field - Crosier, Siagel, JJ Hearty & Kurn were the others) & Jonny Smith (New York), and a five game squeezer over Fagan & Chaloner.



Southwest Draw: Champions - Louis Crosier & James Hewitt (Toronto); Finalists - Preston Quick (Boston) & Marty

The Southwest Draw was reserved for West Draw quarter-final losers. Louis Crozier & Hewitt rebounded from their earlier loss to slip by the Hearty-Roberts duo in four. In the bottom half, things did not go so smoothly as Marty Stocklan & Preston Quick went down quickly in the first two games to Salter & Smith. Marty then somehow found his reverse corner again and was able to ride it over the next three games to emerge in the finals. Crosier & Hewitt, no dummies, refused to hit it in Marty's wheelhouse and consequently dropped only the first game in their final win.

Stocklan

Jim Bildner is the only amateur to

play in all fourteen of the Pro-Ams. He has been carried off the court with a ruptured Achilles, missed business meetings and has been hit several times by refusing to yield position on the forehand rail. He's already signed up for 2012. He and partner Matt Jenson migrated to the Northeast Draw along with three other teams who lost in the round of 32. Unfortunately, they ran into the hot hand of Dave Riccio (who won the raffled two week trip to China) & young Fred Reid and went down in five close games. It was not in the cards this year for Jim as they lost another five game match to Philip Bullen & Hamed Anvari (New York) in the



Matt Jenson (Kiawah Island) & Jim Bildner; Champions - Philip Bullen & Hamed Anvari (New York)

playoff for 3rd place. Meanwhile, another son, JJ Hearty & John Russell advanced to the final in five over Bullen & Anvari. JJ is slimmer than his dad Jim and almost as vocal on the court. It wasn't quite enough as another 15-14 score in the fifth game went in favor of Riccio & Reid.

This year's event was universally acclaimed the most successful of all with Putnam's presence, spirited play and full galleries supplemented by a delicious dinner Friday evening and brunch Sunday. This event increases the interest in doubles in general and in particular, afforded all the chance to see great athletes (the professionals!) in action. Doubles continues to grow at the University Club and Boston in general with the addition of another court at the new YMCA in Marblehead. And with any luck a new court at the Union Boat Club may some day bring another host of new players.

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Mass Squash Leagues: Looking back ... and ahead

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By Rip Hastings

Looking back ... and ahead

2010-2011 was another season of stunning growth for Massachusetts Squash. We ran ten leagues, including the experimental Friday night leagues at the 3.0 and 5.0 levels, growing from 73 teams to 80. Participation was up 25% over 2009 to 756 players, an all-time high. More than 650 individual matches played all across eastern Massachusetts.

At the end of the regular season, League Chairs got together to discuss the future and make a few recommendations to the Board of Mass Squash.

- 1. **Divisions within Leagues.** We discussed whether one or more of the larger leagues could be split into an upper and lower division, with essentially separate structures and with provision for relegation and promotion at the end of the season. We'd like the flexibility to try this in one or more leagues next year, if the right opportunity presents itself.
- 2. **3.0 and 5.0 leagues.** We would like to give these fledgling leagues a regular week night schedule (e.g., Tuesday), each to play every other week in a regular two-team match format (but still experimental, in that players may continue to play in another skill-level league).
- 3. Match Format. In general, we would continue the four-player team-match

format, but consider (with club approval) using five member teams in one or more leagues (e.g., W2.5), as a means of increasing participation.

- 4. **Scoring.** We would continue to allow flexibility in choice of scoring system, but modify that for next year to provide for "visiting captain's choice". That is, the visiting captain would communicate to the home captain by day prior the scoring system that the visiting team chooses to use for all four (or five) individual matches (HiHo-9, PAR-11 or PAR-15).
- 5. **Defaults.** Defaults are still an irritation, and we would like to discuss with US Squash whether we can implement a penalty on their system, allowing a League Chair to subtract "penalty points" from a team's season total, to discourage excessive defaults.
- 6. **Referees.** We want to encourage all players to read the rules and take the US Squash, online "club referee" exam. We recommend a policy that only club certified referees may referee leagues matches, and if such a referee is unavailable, the players will manage their own match.
- 7. **Juniors.** We would continue to enjoy their participation, as in the past, but will try to be more attentive in assessing appropriate skill level.

The Board supported all of these proposals, but if you have other thoughts or contrary views, please let us know by email to Rip Hastings - <u>rhastings@nixonpeabody.com</u>. All feedback is welcome. Thanks.

National League Finals

US Squash invited the best league teams from around the country to participate in the inaugural National Leagues Finals tournament at Harvard in late May. In this inaugural year, Massachusetts Squash ran the table. Here are the winners of the individual skill level flights:

3.0: Boston Racquet Club3.5: Boston Racquet Club4.0: University Club of Boston4.5: Milton Academy5.0: TOG 25.5: TOG 1

2011 Season Winners and Player Rankings

Here is a summary of the winners, and the player rankings and promotions.

Open 5.5 Winners: TOG 1 (Belmont Hill School)

Open 5.0 Winners: Concord Acton Squash Club

Player Rankings:

- 1. Dan Sharplin
- 2. Dan Roberts
- 3. Preston Quick
- 4. Pat Malloy
- 5. Mark O'Hare
- 6. Mike Semprucci

- Player Rankings
- 1. Paul Ansdell
- 2. Ali Merchant
- 3. Derek Moran
- 4. Will Bigelow
- 5. Sarat Gaddipati

7. Dave Adams

8. Rob Chen

9. Parth Doshi

10. Max Montgelas

Player Rankings:

Open 4.5 Winners: University **Open 4.0 Winners: University** Club Club

1. Ken Leng 2. Alex McFerran 3. Charlie Humber 4. Jan Kansky 5. Chris Kane 6. Girish Venkataramani 7. Tim Brennan 8. Shane Reti 9. John Gilooly 10. Mike McElroy Open 3.5 Winners: Boston Racquet Club Player Rankings: 1. Trevor Neal*

- 2. Vijaya B. Kolachalama
- 3. Edward Wellington
- 4. Rohitashwa Goenka
- 5. Kyle R. Eberlin
- 6. Chris Peters
- 7. Ricardo Donoso
- 8. Rom Benson
- 9. Jack Greeley
- 10. Christopher Yates
- 11. Simon P. Graham

Player Rankings 1. Dave Siegle 2. Steve Gardos 3. Drew Snow 4. Nabil Uddin 5. Brent Berc 6. James Harrison 7. Tim Wakeling 8. Ben Lamanna 9. Victor Mireku 10. Vivek Varadarajan Evan Lodge* **Open 3.0 Winners: Boston Racquet Club** Player Rankings 1. Josh Fillman 2. Joe Lawrence 3. Lisa Evans 4. Brian B. Gourlie 5. Thomas A. Durkin 6. Eric D. Berke 7. Brian C. Carlisle 8. Prashant Sundararajan

- 9. Nicolas Clement
- 10. Will Lin

- 12. Jeff Kolodney
- 13. Jimmy Dias
- 14. Kevin Hollister
- 15. James A. Lewis

Open 2.5 Winners: Andover Squash Club

Player Rankings:

- 1. David Little*
- 2. Will Lin
- 3. Mark Attarjan
- 4. Andrew Dart
- 5. Alex Yanishevsky
- 6. Philip Murphy
- 7. Raj Sinha
- 8. Simon Dolan
- 9. Rod Wagner
- 10. Alex Whittemore
- 11. Morris Housen
- 12. Carolyn Damp
- 13. Rob Gray

Promotions: David Little

Women's 3.5 Winners: Dolphins

Player Rankings:

- 1. Heather Lisle
- 2. Lauren Holleran
- 3. Cornelia Steinberg
- 4. Sue Greene
- 5. Melissa Roth
- 6. Bry Roskoz
- 7. Kara Kardon
- 8. Liz Young

Open 50+ Winners: Concord Acton Squash Club

Player Rankings

- 1. Will Bigelow
- 2. Jack Troy
- 3. John Tittman
- 4. Barclay Douglas
- 5. Dave Phillimore
- 6. Mark Dickenson
- 7. Whitney Boucher
- 8. Roger Jones
- 9. Don Marcus
- 10. Rip Hastings

Women's 2.5 Winners: Concord Acton Squash Club

Player Rankings

- 1. Susan Hill
- 2. Deborah Carr
- 3. Kerry Wellington
- 4. Mary Coolidge
- 5. Betsy Johnson
- 6. Catherine Kniker
- 7. Rachel Meyers
- 8. Phoebe Slanetz

- 9. Betsy Hargreaves
- 10. Lisa Evans
- 11. Helen Grassi
- 12. Sophie Runquist

- 9. Moragh Ramage
- 10. Jennifer Moran
- 11. Maria Mayorga
- 12. Rebecca Lingard
- 13. Lisa Putukian
- 14. Nicole McNeil
- 15. Leslie Koplow

* Promoted to next level

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State Doubles Tournament 2011

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By Tom Poor and Dave Heather

Hardball Doubles: "Ouch that hurt!"

They fell like flies. It seems like there were more injuries of one kind or another this year than matches played (and that doesn't count injured psyches!). None were more devastating than the torn calf tendon suffered by **Robin Silver Grace** on the eighth point of the **Mixed** final against **Margot Kearney & Pat Malloy**, finalists the previous two years. Robin and partner **Doug Lifford** had upset defending champions **Hope Crosier & Chris Spahr** in the semis and had a shot at their first title before the curtain fell. Ironically, they had advanced to the semis when **Dan Roberts & Fernanda Rocha** had to default when Dan tore his hamstring, sending him to two months of rehabilitation. Margot & Pat, in their semi, defeated the Harvard Club duo of **Sharon Bradey & Mat Sibble** who in turn had advanced over **Lori Stump & Matt Silver**, beneficiaries of **Hope Prockop**'s default with **Preston Quick** when a knee injury sent her to the sidelines. In her resignation, Hope wrote, "This is the hardest squash e-mail I've ever had to write." There will be no more chances with Preston as he moves to New York this summer.

Hard times were in the **Women's** draw as well. With **Robin** on her way to the hospital, she & **Sharon Bradey** had to default the final to **Hope Crosier & Fernanda Rocha**. That spared the latter team the prospect of being finalists for the third year in a row, losing in 2009 & 2010 to **Sharon & Jeannie Blasberg**. Jeannie is currently living in Switzerland for two years as husband John has a business assignment. In the semis, Hope & Fernanda defeated **Breck Haynes & Kaitlin Sennatt** in four while in the other half, Robin & Sharon won over **Wendy Berry & Sue Greene**. The latter team had advanced at the expense again of Hope Prockop's torn knee meniscus, short circuiting the appearance of her partner, Harvard's **Cece Cortes**.

Cece's dad, **Joe Cortes**, has been a staple of the State **B's**, winning three of the last four years. As so often happens, however, fame in the States can be fleeting and such was Joe's fate this year as he and partner **John Lingos-Webb** were dumped in the first round by **Jim Milton & Tom McCarthy**. In this draw of 34, none of the top four seeds made it beyond the quarters, indicative of either a lot of equally talented teams or just plain Poor seeding. Remember that title of the 2008 States article "A Star is Born!"? That was **Carson Spahr**, then 11, now 14 and the winner of the B's with **Chris Vernick** in a five game beauty over University Club professional **Fernanda Rocha** & top 5.5 singles player **Max Montgelas**. Carson & Chris had edged **John Brazilian & Chris Lutes** in the semis after dismissing #3 seed **Michael Wang &** **Scott Beebe** in the quarters. Brazilian & Lutes had advanced in five over #2 seed **Jon Hartnett & Glenn Prichett**. In the upper half, the Milton-McCarthy team ran to the quarters where they were blanked by **John Frantzis & Jeff Rodman** who in turn were shut out by Fernanda & Max. On the injury front, **Fran Donlan & Dick Whitney** never got started as Fran ruptured his Achilles tendon, sidelining him for the better part of a year.

Carson was not done. Pausing only for a drink of water, he led his father **Chris** back on court for the **Parent-Child** final against **Tom & Morgan Poor**. Both teams were national champions a couple of weeks earlier in the Under 17 and Century divisions respectively, but the States was no contest as the Spahrs won in three easy games. The Poors were fortunate in the semis to escape the clutches of another 14-year old phenom, **Timmy Brownell**, and his dad **Bob** in five games. In their opening round, Tom & Morgan were in a tight one with **Paul & Mark Rapisarda** when in the first game Mark collapsed at 11-all with a ruptured Achilles tendon. He had surgery a day later and will see the sun again in June. The Brownells also advanced when **Liam Quinn's father, Tom**, could not answer the bell due to a pulled hamstring.

The day, however, was not a total bummer for **Tom**. Earlier, he partnered with newly eligible **Malcolm Davidson** in the 60's and met the reigning five year champions, **Lenny Bernheimer & John Brazilian**, in the finals. The great irony in this match was that Tom & Lenny have been partners in national age group tournaments for almost 20 years; John & Malcolm began a partnership this season in the 60's nationally. What was not great, though, was Lenny's calf muscle, originally pulled in the US Nationals in Chicago in late March and not responding well to treatment and rest in the interim. The three game triumph for Poor & Davidson was predictable. The winners had defeated **Jon Sheldon & Chuck Kelly** in the semis, the latter having the distinction of beating **Malcolm Salter** twice - once in the opening round with **Marty Stocklan**, then again in the next round, substituting for **Fran Donlan** with **Dick Whitney**. Malcolm had been free to play when his original partner, **Hank Shaw**, was forced to default with a shoulder injury.

The **C** draw with 41 teams was the largest of the States' eight draws which included 158 teams, the largest number since the State Doubles began in 1950. Here the seeds were relatively good although young **Carson** nearly upset the apple cart with partner **Amory Bennett**, losing a four game quarter-final tussle to 2nd seeded **Bill Keravuori & Dave Shulman**. That victory seemed to provide the latter with the necessary momentum as they shut out **John Keating & Cale Forgues** in the semis and top seed **Dean Williams & Matt Gibbs** in the finals. Dean & Matt, champions in 2009, slipped by 4th seeded **Katie Hendricks & Jim Milton** in their semi, ending the latter's run of previous round wins dotted with many overtime games. Other women in the draw made their mark as well, notably **Bry Roskoz & Krissy Rubin** who upset 3rd seeded **Mark Baranski & Zach Harvey** by unmercifully attacking Mark, hobbling with a leg injury. All's fair in love and the States.

When **Tom Butters** and **Bruce Welty** never took the floor in the opening round of the **50's** due to injuries, it appeared the draw was headed for more of the same. Such was not the case, however, as last year's finalists **Malcolm Davidson & Court Chilton** set their sights on winning this one. They ran into immediate trouble against **Rob Dewees &** enigmatic **Will Bigelow**, suffering as Will scurried to all corners of the court before finally weakening in the fifth. Things improved only slightly in the semis against **John Nimick & Len Zide** as four tight games ended in their favor. The string ran out in the finals where last year's conquerors, **Sandy Tierney & Jamie Fagan**, awaited. They were rested after demolishing **John Frantzis & Chris Lutes** in the quarters, then destroying **Joe Duffey & Jeff Rodman** in the semis. Sandy & Jamie administered a similar *coup de grace* in the finals.

What the States giveth, it also taketh and so was the outcome of the evening's final match, the State **A's**, matching **Tierney & Pat Malloy**, champions in '07 & '08, against **Chris Spahr & Doug Lifford**, each winners in previous years with other partners. If Sandy was the dominant player in the 50's, he was in trouble in the A's as

he freely admitted after losing the first game when, perspiring heavily, he uttered, "This is not good." The next two games went the same way, making Chris and Carson the only two time winners of the day. Spahr & Lifford, seeded second, had little difficulty in their half breezing by Jon Hartnett & Wendell Chestnut, recently returned from South Africa, in the opener, Andrew Slater & Spencer Kurn in the quarters and Preston Quick & Chris Smith (taking Preston's pro position at the Union Boat Club) in the semis. Sandy & Pat had also advanced with little pain, helped significantly by Roberts' injury absence in the quarters and a three game cruise over Andrew Matuch & Bruce Sullivan 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 180 entrants), and the emergence of younger players bode well for the future of the doubles game in Boston.



State A Doubles: Finalists - Sandv Champions - Chris Spahr & Doug Lifford



State B Doubles: Champions - Chris Tierney & Pat Malloy; Vernick & Carson Spahr; Finalists - Max Montgelas & Fernanda Rocha



State C Doubles: Finalists - Matt Gibbs & Dean Williams; Champions - Dave Shulman & Bill Keravuori



State 50's Doubles: Finalists - Malcolm Davidson & Court Chilton; Champions -Sandy Tierney & Jamie Fagan



State Mixed Doubles: Champions - Margot Kearney & Pat Malloy; Finalists - Doug Lifford & Robin Silver Grace



State Parent/Child Doubles: Finalists -Tom & Morgan Poor; Champions - Carson & Chris Spahr



State 60's Doubles: Champions - Malcolm Davidson & Tom Poor; Finalists - Lenny Bernheimer & John Brazilian

Softball Doubles

Newton Squash and Tennis hosted the finals of the state softball doubles finals. Gordon Smiles, the manager at Newton Squash & Tennis, could not have been a better host.

Rachid Regragui, for the second year in a row, had to default his team in the finals, and the winner of the 5.5 draw this year is Paul and Wendy Ansdell. That said, Dave Heather filled in for Suki Singh, and along with Rachid and took to the court with Wendy and Paul. Unfortunately, the match came to a premature end, with Paul injuring his achilles.

The 4.5 finals were contended by Steve and Neely Steinberg, and Gifford

Sommerkamp and Belkys Velez. A great match, and Gifford and Belkys were victorious. Jim Bildner and Pete Liebert, took on Nick Ferring and Adam Brinch in the 3.5 Finals. This was a great match, with Jim and Pete taking a decisive early lead, only to have Nick and Adam claw their way back...very exciting! In the end, Jim and Pete, held off the challenge, and were victorious!



Softball 5.5 and Paul Ansdell (red), Finalists: Suki Singh (Dave Heather in this picture)



Softball 4.5 Champions: Wendy Champions: Gifford Sommerkamp and Belkys Velez (left) Rachid Regraqui and and Finalists: Steve Finalists: Nick Ferring and Neely Steinberg and Adam Brinch (right)



Softball 3.5 Champions: Jim Bildner and Pete Liebert (left) and

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State Junior Rankings

Boys Under 11

- 1. David C. Rubin
- 2. Cole Koeppel
- 3. Deven S. Kanwal
- 4. Myles McIntyre
- 5. Robert Watkins
- 6. Parker S. Walsh
- 7. Luke Swann
- 8. Jackson Smith
- 9. Jacob Koeppel
- 10. Samuel Freed

Boys Under 13

- 1. Reg Anderson
- 2. Jack Bell
- 3. Patrick McElroy
- 4. Nicholas Cummings
- 5. James Bell

Girls Under 11

- 1. Caroline Spahr
- 2. Katherine S. McElroy
- 3. Sasha Meszoely
- 4. Jesse S. Brownell
- 5. Kendall Walsh
- 6. Abigail Roberts

Girls Under 13

- 1. Madeleine P. Chai
- 2. Doria Chen
- 3. Margaret C. Werner
- 4. Grace Connor
- 5. Natasha E. Jones

6. Alexander Kurtin	6. Caroline Conway
7. Neel Das	7. Ellie Gozigian
8. Jason Montima	8. Alexis K. Lazor
9. James Andrew	9. Sara Keene
10. Michael Goldfine	10. Haley M. Hunt
Boys Under 15	Girls Under 15
1. Max D. Reed	1. Addie B. Fulton
2. Carson Spahr	2. Samantha Chai
3. Timmy Brownell	3. Sarah Bell
4. Spencer Anton	4. Tegan E. Treacy
5. R. Cody Cortes	5. Sarah Zhang
6. William M. Shadek	6. Molly S. Prockop
7. Blake A. Gilbert-Bono	7. Ananya Mahalingam-Dhingra
8. Caldwell M. Perkins	8. Melissa Swann
9. Stephen S. Monrad	9. Lily C. Wain
10. Charles K. Woodworth	10. Clarissa Carson-Rose
Boys Under 17	Girls Under 17
Boys Under 17 1. Tripp Kaelin	Girls Under 17 1. Caroline Monrad
-	
1. Tripp Kaelin	1. Caroline Monrad
1. Tripp Kaelin 2. William L. McBrian	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin James M. Fullham 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell Zandra Ho
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin James M. Fullham Nima Olumi 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell Zandra Ho Marina Hartnick
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin James M. Fullham Nima Olumi Derick C. Buffum 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell Zandra Ho Marina Hartnick Devin Mullaney
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin James M. Fullham Nima Olumi Derick C. Buffum Carlos Ames 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell Zandra Ho Marina Hartnick Devin Mullaney Lillie N. Simourian
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin James M. Fullham Nima Olumi Derick C. Buffum Carlos Ames Tyler Billman 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell Zandra Ho Marina Hartnick Devin Mullaney Lillie N. Simourian Madeleine Smith
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin James M. Fullham Nima Olumi Derick C. Buffum Carlos Ames Tyler Billman John C. Wain 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell Zandra Ho Marina Hartnick Devin Mullaney Lillie N. Simourian Madeleine Smith Catherine Walsh
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin James M. Fullham Nima Olumi Derick C. Buffum Carlos Ames Tyler Billman John C. Wain Boys Under 19 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell Zandra Ho Marina Hartnick Devin Mullaney Lillie N. Simourian Madeleine Smith Catherine Walsh Girls Under 19
 Tripp Kaelin William L. McBrian Benjamin R. Krant Tucker R. Hamlin James M. Fullham Nima Olumi Derick C. Buffum Carlos Ames Tyler Billman John C. Wain Boys Under 19 Edward B. Columbia 	 Caroline Monrad Haley Connor Hunter Sechrest Rebecca Brownell Zandra Ho Marina Hartnick Devin Mullaney Lillie N. Simourian Madeleine Smith Catherine Walsh Girls Under 19 Ariel H. Posner

- 4. Mathieu Diab
- 5. Kyul Rhee
- 6. Reed Palmer
- 7. Conor C. McClintock
- 8. Sam Shleifer
- 9. Kelvin Chen
- 10. Scott J DeSantis

- 4. Lily Grant
- 5. Sofia M. Thierry
- 6. Abby Giannuzzi
- 7. Andrea Tran
 - 8. Alexandra L. White
 - 9. Hailey H. Newbound
 - 10. Lizzie Ayoub



GU19 Ariel Posner



GU17

Caroline

Monrad



GU15

Addie

Fulton





GU13 Maddie Chai

GU11 Caroline Spahr



BU19

Edward

Columbia



BU17

Tripp

Kaelin



BU15 BU13 Reg Max Reed Anderson



BU11 David C. Rubin

State Singles Tournament 2011

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By Kevin Hollister

Harvard's Murr Center was the place to be on April 7th for an exciting evening of squash featuring the finals of the MA Squash State Softball Singles Championships. The event featured championship matches in eighteen divisions and three exhibition matches that were played on five courts throughout the evening and drew an enthusiastic audience of hundreds of fellow players, fans and friends. All were treated to spirited matches across a full range of skill levels by players both younger and older.

This event was the culmination of the tournament that began in early February with a total of nearly 600 players participating. All nine of the state league skill level divisions featured a draw including the newly-formed Open 3.0 and Open 5.0 divisions. There was also a Women's 4.5+ draw, three Women's age group draws and eight Men's age group draws. The finalists represented the MA Squash members who had worked their way through these single-elimination draws, some with as many as 100 players competing, so at this level of competition only the very best players remained in the hunt for the championship honors. The winners and finalists are listed below.

The crowd was treated to two exhibition matches played by members of Harvard's Women team who graciously filled in at the last minute for injured finalists. Harvard #1 Laura Gemmell played Women's 4.5+ winner Fernanda Rocha and incoming Harvard captain Cece Cortez took on Wendy Ansdell, the Women's 40+ champion. An exhibition match was also played in the 5.0 draw pitting semi-finalist Reed Palmer against champion David Funk. All three exhibition matches were as competitive and entertaining as the championship matches and represented some great squash by all.

Special thanks go to Harvard University for providing the perfect venue for the annual championships as well as the opportunity to see a couple of their top players in action. Thank you to all of the players who participated in the tournament but didn't make it through to the finals. As you could see, the level of play on display was inspirational. For those who did play, thank you and congratulations. We hope all of the players return next year - as well as some new faces - to play in the championships.

Open 5.5	Open 5.0	Open 4.5	Open 4.0
Winner: Dan Sharplin	Winner: David Funk	Winner: Charlie Humber	Winner: Trevor Neal
Finalist: Dan Roberts	Finalist: Brian W. Marsden, Jr.	Finalist: Jan Kansky	Finalist: Dave Siegle
Open 3.5	Open 3.0	Open 2.5	
Winner: Kyle R. Eberlin	Winner: Rob L. Soni	Winner: Rob L. Soni	
Finalist: Jonathan Reifler	Finalist: Benjamin Whitham	Finalist: Seth Koeppel	
Women's 4.5	Women's 3.5	Women's 2.5	
Winner: Fernanda Rocha	Winner: Heather Lisle	Winner: Maddie Chai	
Finalist: Hope N. Prockop	Finalist: Phoebe Anderson	Finalist: Susan Hill	
Open 35+	Open 40+	Open 45+	Open 50+
Winner: Doug Lifford	Winner: Doug Lifford	Winner: Chris Spahr	Winner: Robert Brownell

Finalist: Ali Merchant

Finalist: Scott Poirier Finalist: Will Bigelow Finalist: Will Bigelow

Open 70+

Winner:

Michael

Keating

Finalist: Lewis

B. Holmes

Open 55+ Open 60+

Winner: SamWinner: D. BruceThayerMerrifield, Jr.

Finalist: Bill Kaplan

Women's 30+

Women's 40+

Winner: Belkys Velez

Finalist: Melissa L. Roth Winner: Wendy Ansdell

Finalist: Robert

W. Loring

Finalist: Hope N. Prockop

Open 65+

Winner: Stephen Steinberg

Finalist: Fran Donlan

Women's 50+

Winner: Kerry Wellington

Finalist: Becky Lingard



Open 5.5: Dan Roberts (Finalist) and Dan Sharplin (Champion)



Open 5.0 Exhibition: David Funk (Champion) and Reed Palmer



Open 4.5: Charlie Humber (Champion) and Jan Kansky (Finalist)



Open 4.0: Trevor Neal (Champion) and Dave Siegle (Finalist)



Open 3.5: Jonathan Riefler (Finalist) and Kyle Eberlin (Champion)



Open 3.0: Rob Soni (Champion) and Benjamin Whitham (Finalist)



Open 2.5: Rob Soni (Champion) and Seth Koeppel (Finalist)





Women's 4.5 Exhibition Women's 2.5: Maddie Match: Fernanda Rocha (Champion) and Laura Gemmel

Chai (Champion) and Susan Hill (Finalist)



(Champion) and Ali Merchant (Finalist)



Mens 35+: Doug Lifford Mens 40+: Scott Poirier (Finalist) and Doug Lifford (Champion)



Mens 45+: Chris Spahr (Champion) and Will Bigelow (Finalist)



Mens 50+: Bob Brownell (Champion) and Will Bigelow (Finalist)



Mens 55+: Sam Thayer (Champion) and Bill Kaplan (Finalist)



Mens 60+: Bob Loring (Finalist) and Bruce Merrifield (Champion)



Women's 30+: Belkys Velez (Champion) and Melissa Roth (Finalist)



Women's 40+ Exhibition: Wendy Ansdell (Champion) and Cece Cortez



Women's 50+: Kerry Wellington (Champion) and Becky Lingard (Finalist)

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National Championships and Other Awards

US High School Team Squash Championship

By Szilvi Szombati

This year's High School Team Championships marks a new record in the squash books. The tournament reached its largest participation ever with 141 teams from 16 states and over 1250 players playing in only three days of competition. The tournament was held February 11-13, 2011 in four different venues in Connecticut: Yale University, Trinity College, Wesleyan University and Choate Rosemary Hall.

Over 2300 matches were played in the six Boys and four Girls Divisions and

Massachusetts was represented in most of them by teams from the following schools: Belmont Hill, Brooks, Deerfield, Groton, Middlesex, Milton, Noble and Greenough, Phillips Academy, St. Mark's, Tabor and Winsor.

Here are some of the results that our teams achieved:

Boys Division I: Belmont Hill School, 4th place
Boys Division II: Milton Academy, 2nd place
Boys Division III: Brooks School, 4th place
Boys Division IV: Deerfield Academy, 1st place - National Champions
Boys Division V: Tabor Academy B, 3rd place

Girls Division I: Deerfield Academy, 2nd place **Girls Division III**: Winsor School, 1st place - National Champions, St. Mark's School, 4th place

Congratulations to Deerfield Academy's boys and the Winsor girls to bring home the title of this prestigious tournament!



Winsor School Girls Teeam. (L-R top row): Coach Helen Grassi, Abigail Gabrieli, Sarah Bell, Ananya Mahalingam-Dhingra, Catherine Walsh, Head Coach Szilvi Szombati. (L-R bottom row): Mary Aidan Hanrahan, Abby Giannuzzi, Astrid Pacini

Junior Appreciation Awards

Most Improved - Girl: Tegan Treacy Most Improved - Boy: Henry Woodworth

Sportsmanship - Girl: Yuleissy Ramirez Sportsmanship - Boy: Kelvin Chen

National Championships

Age Groups

Urban GU17 Finalist: Yuleissy Ramirez Urban GU19 Finalist: Ashley M Brooks Junior Silver GU13 Winner: Melissa Swann Open 35+ Winner: Daniel Sharplin Open 80+ Winner: Charles Butt Open 80+ Finalist: Lee Engler

Women's 35+ Finalist: Belkys Velez Women's 40+ Finalist: Hope Prockop Women's 55+ Finalist: Julia Moore

Skill Levels

Open 4.5 Finalist: Max D. Reed Open 4.0 Winner: John I. Ghublikian

Hardball Singles

Men's Open Winner: Preston Quick Women's Open Winner: Fernanda Rocha Women's Open Finalist: Hope Prockop Men's 20+ Winner: Dan Roberts Men's 40+ Finalist: Chris Lutes Men's 50+ Finalist: David Schenkein Men's 70+ Finalist: Phil Clapp Men's 75+ Winner: Phil Clapp Men's 80+ Finalist: Charles Butt

Hardball Doubles

U.S. 55+ Winners: Sandy Tierney / Sean McDonough (Toronto)
U.S. Century Open Winners: Sandy Tierney / Doug Lifford
Canadian 55+ Winners: Sandy Tierney / Sean McDonough (Toronto)
Canadian 65+ Winners: Tom Poor / Lenny Bernheimer
U.S. Father/Son U17 Winners: Chris Spahr / Carson Spahr
U.S. Father/Son Century Winners: Tom Poor / Morgan Poor
U.S. Sibling Open Winners: Preston Quick / Meredith Quick (Brooklyn, NY)
U.S. Sibling Open Finalists: Dan Roberts / John Roberts (Belfast, NI)

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Mass Squash Board for 2011-12

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