

MSRA News

MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to a new season of squash! If you watched the US Open at Symphony Hall in September, then you were surely inspired to set higher goals for yourself this season.

Activities organized by the MSRA will give you plenty of opportunities to compete over the next eight months: our leagues are growing and more competitive than ever, we have a full complement of sanctioned tournaments to look forward to, and many more softball courts will be completed in and around Boston this year!

I challenge you to look beyond the MSRA and play in a national event, especially if you have never before done so. The quality of squash, the atmosphere, and the competition will motivate you to work harder when you get back home. Let's aim to give the MSRA a strong representation down in Hartford in March 2003! Meanwhile, good luck to the MSRA Howe Cup Teams headed down to Washington DC over the weekend of October 20—and hats off especially to those women who are
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Squash at Symphony

THE 2002 US OPEN, held September 12-16, had a vaguely illicit feel. How did all these squash players come to be wandering around a Boston artistic institution like Symphony Hall in their skivvies? Yes, squash is a gentlemanly, high-toned sport—but nonetheless didn't it feel like we were all, players and fans alike, complicit in some kind of barbarian invasion of the cultural empyrean?

It did feel like that—and what a delicious feeling it was! (At what other squash tournament, for instance, do tuxedoed ushers show you to your seats?) For this, we owe thanks to the monumental efforts of **John Nimick** and his company **EventEngine**, who brought the tournament—finally—to Symphony Hall. In the last 14 months, not only did Nimick have to contend with the cancellation and rescheduling of the 2001 US Open due to 9/11, but he had to endure the near-evisceration of the 2002 Open by the Professional Squash Association (PSA), which authorized a French tournament to be held the same weekend and which would have lured away most of the best European players. (Fortunately, the French tournament never came off.) Despite these complications Nimick and company managed to put on a stylish, fan-friendly tournament that featured all the world's best players. Symphony Hall provided more

room than either the Harvard Club of Boston or the Sheraton Boston, the sites of the Open in 1998-2000 and 2001, respectively. The size of the venue allowed for both more spectators inside the hall and for a more spacious feel outside of it. This year, there was also greater coordination between the US Open and the MSRA Junior



David Palmer (right) wins his first US Open. Here he competes against Stewart Boswell.

PHOTO: © DEBRA TESSIER/SQUASH-TALK

Committee, which produced a whole series of clinics, exhibitions, and autograph sessions where young squash players could spend quality time with the pros. (See pages 4-9 for details.) The relationship between the MSRA and the US Open continues to deepen and grow: MSRA members served
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SQUASH AT SYMPHONY *continued from page 1*
 as hosts and ambassadors for the players; **Carl Cummings** once again headed an MSRA usher crew; and the confident, Anglo-inflected tones of Concord-Acton Squash Club's **Wendy Ansdell** could be heard calling out scores and cowing whiny players into submission.



Jonathon Power (left) playing Stewart Boswell.

The centerpiece of the event was of course the squash itself. This year, for the first time in seven years, the final featured neither **Peter Nicol** or **Jonathan Power**, the perennial numbers one and two in the world. Power was dispatched with surprising ease in the quarterfinals by **Stewart Boswell** (9-15, 15-12, 15-9, 15-11), the mellow Australian ranked number four in the world. By the time Power

appeared to realize he was in trouble, it was too late in the match for him to recover; Boswell never gave him an opening. Nicol survived until the semifinals, where he played the match of the tournament against Australian **David Palmer**, the world's number 3. It was odd to see Nicol, probably the most mentally formidable player on the tour over the last ten years, get psyched out by the sometimes mercurial Palmer. In each of the first two games, Palmer would overcome deficits to surge ahead to game point; Nicol, with his typically jaw-dropping retrieving, would recover to 14-all; and then Palmer would brazenly call for "Set 1," win the ensuing point, and take the game 15-14. Nicol appeared to pick up momentum in the third game, which he won 15-8, and the between-match murmurings in the crowd predicted that the combination of Nicol's fitness and momentum—combined with Palmer's penchant for self-destruction—would propel the world number one to victory. It was not to be, however. Once again, the players found themselves knotted 14-all. As soon as Nicol called for "set-3"—to keep match point at a safe distance away—Palmer looked at him with mock disbelief, as though to say "You coward: real players call for 'Set 1.'" The crowd, and Nicol, laughed, but at that point it was evident that Nicol had been undone: Palmer took three of the next four points to win 17-15.



Peter Nicol

Thus the final—which was preceded once again by Nimick's brainchild, the "lightning round," won this year by **Anthony Ricketts**—was an all-Australian affair, featuring the skinny limbs and long reach (combined they are nearly 13 feet tall) of Palmer and Boswell. Though Boswell had looked impressive en route to the final (after beating Power he had crushed Frenchman **Thierry Lincou**), he never managed to play his way into the match versus Palmer. The result was a decently played but nonetheless anticlimactic victory for Palmer, 15-13, 15-10, 15-11. Something to ponder: was this Palmer-Boswell final a hint of the future, a glimpse of the rivalry that may supercede Nicol-Power? Or does the old guard, like Agassi and Sampras at the *other* U.S. Open, have a little more fuel left in the tank? The opportunity to watch the answer to these questions unfold is all the more reason to hope that this year was merely the first of what will become many installments of Squash at Symphony. ■

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER *continued from page 1*

first-timers!

To improve your knowledge of the game, plan on attending a rules and refereeing Clinic this year. Our first clinic will be held on October 30 at the Harvard Club.

Understanding the difference between a let and a stroke will give you the confidence to referee

matches—which, by the way, is a requirement in League and Tournament play! Refereeing is not only good for your game, but and the people you are refereeing will appreciate it too.

Have a good 2002-2003 season everyone!

JEANNIE BLASBERG
 MSRA President

Featured Website: freshaddress.com

Ever traveled to a city on business, squash racket in hand, only to be unable to find a game? Next time, try **Squash.FreshAddress.com** (<http://squash.freshaddress.com>), a free worldwide email directory of squash players. At last count, Fresh Address had players from all across the United States and from more than 70 countries. The site allows you to

search for a player by name, region, or old e-mail address. And it's set up so that, if you choose, you can require special authorization before anyone is able to contact you directly. (You know, so you can avoid those dreaded **squash stalkers**.) It's worth signing up—and the more people who sign up, the more valuable the site will be for everyone. ■

Inaugural Co-ed Summer League a Success

For a maiden voyage, it was remarkably free of stormy seas. There were some complaints about the handicapping system (which will be addressed next season) and there were a few too many forfeits, but overall the MSRA's first summer league in decades—and its first

explicitly co-ed league ever—was a grand success. The quality of competition was generally high. The quality of the after-match socializing was even higher.

Though the **Harvard Club** and the **University Club** each fielded multiple teams, Harvard Club teams proved to be the iron of the league. In the playoffs, the battle for third-place between **Maugus** and **Union Boat** came down to **Marty Kornguth** eking out a five-game victory over **Ethan Ladd** for Maugus. The battle for the championship pitted two Harvard Club teams against one another. **Harvard Club Gold**, captained by Men's C stalwart **Fraser Walsh**, went up against **Harvard Club Black**, captained by up-and-coming women's A player **Kate Lytle**. The match was epic. In the number one slot, Black's **Orla Doherty** took Gold's **Sharon Bradey**—the Harvard Club teaching pro—to five games before succumbing. In the number three slot, junior player **Aaron Rosenthal** of the Black team took **Toby Lester** of the Gold team 3-1. And in the number four slot Lytle outlasted Walsh. That left the decisive match to two formidable number 2 players, Black's **Jay Bradner** and Gold's **Peter Manuelian**. Manuelian prevailed, but only by 3-2, which meant **Black** was the champion on strength of games won.

Among the also-rans, **Healthpoint** and **University Club IV** were the strongest contenders.

Now that the start-up kinks have been worked out and some fierce rivalries established, next summer's league will be even better. Many thanks to **Bry Rosko** and **Liz Brecht** for running the league. ■

MSRANews

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Support the US Women's National Team

You can contribute to the success of U.S. women's squash by contributing to the USSRA **Women's Elite Athlete Fund**. Currently, the talent pool of young American women squash players is deeper and stronger than at any time in history. By contributing to the Elite Athlete Fund, you will help keep these women on the courts, and to give them the training and international competition to make this country a force in global squash. Your tax-deductible contribution will fund: the US Elite Tournament Tour, the US Women's Championship, Elite Training Grants, and a National Training Center, where top athletes can train while supplementing their income by giving lessons. Supporting the Elite Athlete Fund will benefit the MSRA in at least two tangible ways. First, the MSRA's own **Sharon Bradey** is currently the coach of the women's national team. Second, with the large crop of high quality juniors the Boston area has cultivated, the MSRA may soon be feeding additional players into the national team pool.

Send checks payable to the USSRA, Women's Elite Athlete Fund, c/o Women's Elite Athlete Fund, PO Box 1216 Bala Cynwynd, PA 19004. Contact **Brenda Grossnickle**, USSRA Women's Committee Chair, at Bgrossnickle@bellsouth.net, with comments or questions.

Junior News

Early Season Roundup

Welcome to the 2002-2003 squash season. From the juniors' perspective, it's off to a great and fast start. It has already included: the **US Open Junior Jam Clinic** at Harvard University, organized by University Club pro **Chris Spahr**, with instructors **Peter Nicol, Jonathan Power, David Palmer, Stewart Boswell, Simon Parke** and 11 other top pros; exhibition match play for four juniors on the glass court at Symphony Hall, as the opening act for the quarter final matches at the US Open; four clinics on the glass court with Simon Parke, **Mark Lewis**, and **Jason Hicks** before the semi-final matches at the US Open; and tournaments in Newport and Bowdoin the last two weekends in September. More than sixty juniors participated in the Junior Jam at Harvard; twenty juniors got the rare opportunity to play on the glass court at Symphony Hall.

How were they selected? Any junior who wanted to could participate in the Junior Jam. If you missed it, you missed a fabulous, well-organized clinic and a rare opportunity to hit with sixteen of the best players on the planet. If the event is included in the US Open next year, watch for mailings and emails and be sure to sign up.

The twenty juniors who played on the glass court in Symphony Hall got that opportunity because of the past commitments they had made to squash. Each of the twenty

played in at least two MSRA sanctioned tournaments in the 2001-2002 season, each was ranked by the MSRA, and each played in the State Junior Championship tournament, called the Massachusetts Closed, held at Belmont Hill School last March. Just ask any of the twenty what a wonderful opportunity playing on the glass court presented: this is the very same forum in which the world's best squash gladiators meet to do battle. Simon Parke, a past winner of the US Open and once ranked as high as three in the world, spent 90 minutes playing squash with 12 Massachusetts juniors. Imagine getting to play three quarter court with one of the best in the world and *winning the point!* The smiles, the laughter and the serious squash by all 16 juniors was wonderful to hear and watch. There was no charge to the twenty juniors for these opportunities: it was a benefit of their MSRA membership and their commitment to tournament play.

Did the juniors have to be the best to get this opportunity? For the four who played in the exhibition matches, yes: those four were selected because they placed first and second in an age group category at the Massachusetts Closed. For the other sixteen who participated in the clinics, any junior player of whatever ability who wanted to participate in the clinics and who had met the past play requirements had the opportu-

nity to hit on the glass court at Symphony.

No one anticipated at the start of the year that the US Open would present such wonderful opportunities for junior squash. We on the Junior Committee hope that the US Open is here to stay in Boston at Symphony Hall and that our wonderful partnership with John Nimick and Event Engine carries forward to next year. Who is to say today what wonderful and perhaps better opportunities might present themselves to dedicated junior players over the next year here in Massachusetts? For you and your kids to be included, be sure to join MSRA, be sure to play in sanctioned tournaments, and be sure to play in the Massachusetts Closed. If we have a wonderful but limited opportunity, it will be allocated first to those junior players who are dedicated playing members.

State ranking requirements:

“Imagine being twelve years old, getting to play with Simon Parke, one of the best in the world—and winning the point!”

to be ranked by MSRA in an end of the season junior ranking for 2002-2003, you must play in **two** MSRA sanctioned tournaments (see page 10, “Junior Tournament

Junior News

Schedule”). We are not requiring this season passing the referee exam, but we urge juniors to do so to get a national ranking (national rankings require play in 4 USSRA sanctioned tournaments). We will rank juniors at the end of the season using the USSRA tournament results database, as we did this past year. If you play in four tournaments elsewhere but don't play in two MSRA sanctioned tournaments, you will not get a MSRA ranking.

Junior membership: open to any junior player who joins MSRA and who lives or goes to school in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, or Maine.

Grand Prix tournaments: playing in the Grand Prix tournaments, listed on page 10, carries with it the chance for year-end prizes from our sponsor Black Knight. Last year's winners won racquets and squash bags. We have changed the criteria for earning points this year. First, participation in each of the grand prix tournaments is heavily weighted in calculating the year-end grand prix rankings. Second, a junior who wins a grand prix prize in one age group cannot win a prize in another age category.

Junior League: Junior League dates are as follows: October 27, November 17, December 15, January 26, February 2, March 2 and April 6. If you want to play on a team, speak to your club pro or school coach. Many juniors did last year and had a wonderful time. ■

—MICHAEL LOUCKS
Co-Chair, Junior Committee

How I Began Playing Junior Tournaments

Corey Schafer is one of the rising stars in the junior squash scene. She is one of a group of 11-year-old girls in Massachusetts that one Philadelphia squash professional recently described as the strongest crop in the country. Corey was ranked Number 4 in the MSRA Girls Under 11 division this past season and was undoubtedly in the top 10 players in the unpublished USSRA rankings.

BY COREY SCHAFFER

In November of 2000, I stopped doing gymnastics. I wondered what other sport I could do. Since my Dad plays squash, I decided to give it a go. One thing that I liked about squash is that it is an individual sport — just like gymnastics. For a couple of months, I played only with my Dad. We played about two times a week. I decided I loved the sport, so I started taking lessons to get better.

My first lessons I took were with Cliff Wenn, the squash pro at the Maugus Club where my family belongs. Along with Cliff's lessons, I was going to the University Club on Saturdays to take clinics run by Chris Spahr. So with all these lessons, I decided to sign up for the tournament at Boston Sports Club in Allston in the Spring of 2001. In this first tournament I lost all of my matches! Losing all of my matches just made me practice and play harder.

I have played many more competitive tournaments since that first experience. Each tournament has made me try harder and strive to improve. I like going to different clubs to play in tournaments because each one has its own courts and people!

At the National Team Selection Tournament at Harvard University last winter, I placed fourth in my age group behind the champion, Casey Cortes and the finalist, Sarah Loucks. Three of the top four players in that tournament were from Massachusetts even though players came from many Northeastern states.

There are five girls in my age group that play a lot of tournaments that I have gotten to know pretty well. They are myself, Casey Cortes, Courtney Jones, Sarah Loucks, and Alli Rubin. It's fun to play against them in tournaments to see how much we can help each other improve! Last May, I played the Massachusetts Jr. Closed. It was the last tournament I played. Again, I placed third. It was a round robin tournament at Belmont Hill School and I played a ton of matches. Overall, I love playing in tournaments.

This year I've set new goals to try to achieve. One of my goals is to get a national ranking. To achieve my goals I'm going to take lessons, practice more and play tournaments. So remember, nobody can change your squash game but you. ■

Junior News

Celebrity Interview

The U.S. Open hosted a Symphony Hall exhibition of the top juniors in the Boys Under 19 and Girls Under 15 divisions before the quarterfinals. The boys were **Luke Harris** and **Will Simonton**. Junior star **Jon Barry** caught up with the two girls, **Cece Cortes** and **Laura Curren**, as they got off the court.

The author Jon Barry, 16, came to the squash



Will Simonton (left) and Luke Harris warming up.

scene relatively late, but is now truly one of the MSRA's bright young stars. He was MSRA No. 3 and USSRA No. 29 last season in the tough Boys Under 17 division. He was awarded the coveted MSRA Sportsmanship Prize for the 2000 to 2001 season. Jon is a stalwart of the vaunted Milton Academy squash team.

Cece Cortes, 13, and Laura Curren, 14, are squash soul mates. Since they first met two years ago, they have alternated at No. 1 and No. 2 in 8 tournaments, numerous rankings, various competitions, dollars spent on squash outfits and e-mail messages sent.

Jon: What was it like playing in front of such a large crowd at

one of the world's most famous tournaments in Symphony Hall?

Laura: I was thrilled, especially because we were able to coordinate our squash outfits the week before.

Cece: It was exciting. The crowds were large because my parents invited everybody they knew. It was so embarrassing!

Jon: Were there any distractions?

Laura: After I got used to the setting, I played better. I was just happy they had a real ref and not someone from the MSRA Junior Committee.

Cece: I was very embarrassed to hit the tin, like when I saw my little brother Cody dancing behind the front wall.

Jon: How did the match go for you? Was it as you expected? Have you played on a glass court before?

Laura: Was that really glass? The match was very close and enjoyable even though Cece promised I would beat her love and love.

Cece: Why didn't the glass break? We tried to hit the ball hard. The match was awesome – two great friends playing with matching outfits.

Jon: Laura already mentioned the outfits, Cece. Which pros do you think your game most resembles? Why?

Laura: Peter Nicol. He's cute.

Cece: Jonathan Power. He's cute.

Jon: I didn't ask who you wanted to marry. Did your training prepare you for today's match?

Laura and Cece (in unison): "Yes, we trained very hard for today."

Jon: Could you see yourself here in a few years?

Laura and Cece (in unison): "Yes, hopefully."

Jon: Would you like to have this and other junior clinics/events in the future?

Laura and Cece (in unison): "Yes, very much."

Jon: Any comments for your opponent?

Laura and Cece (in unison): "Yes, we're excellent friends." "Did you notice our matching outfits, Jon?" ■



Cece Cortes (left) and Laura Curren battling.

Junior News

My 2002 U. S. Open

Casey Cortes, 11, is as close to a "squash hooligan" as there is in the U.S. She has been rowdy at every main draw match of the U.S. Open since it came to the Harvard Club four years ago. She has autographs of the pros on every piece of apparel and equipment imaginable, but refuses to return calls from eBay.

BY CASEY CORTES

During the third week of September, Renan Lavigne from France stayed at my house. He is number 22 for squash in the world. He was here for the US Open of squash. I go to France every summer and for the French Junior Open in the winter. It was really cool having him stay because we talked about squash in France a lot.

Watching the squash was also cool. It was kind of funny when Jonathan Power argued with the refs. It was a real shock when Stewart Boswell (#5) beat Jonathan Power (#2) and David Palmer (#3) beat Peter Nicol (#1). I was rooting for the no. 3 and 5 seeds, and I actually jumped up and down after they won (I hope

Jonathan Power and Peter Nicol didn't see me).

I liked this year's Open the best because of the clinics the juniors had with the pros. It was awesome how we met and played with them.

It was fun at the Junior Jam because my group got to play with David Palmer, Stewart Boswell, and Mark Chaloner. Also some friends and I got to play with former Open champion Simon Parke, which was also fun.

I think that next year the US Open should be held at Symphony Hall again because that was a nicer venue than the Harvard Club and The Sheraton. The dining room was nice along with the room with the glass court. Mostly everything about Symphony Hall was better than the other two venues. ■



According to Casey Cortes, junior players thought it was "awesome" to play with the pros.

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Junior News

Rubbing Elbows with the Best Players in the World

The following authors are all part of the fast improving St. Marks School squash team. They began playing MSRA tournaments last season and achieved high rankings by the end. Their dedication to improving their squash was evidenced recently by their participation in the U.S. Open professional tournament's clinics at the Murr Center and Symphony Hall.

BY CAROLINE LEMOINE, MARIA
MACDONALD, HOLLY CRIMMINS
AND KATE BRYANT

Arriving at the Murr center for our session with the pros, we were apprehensive and unsure of what was to come. After registering, we made our way over to the bleachers and began our attempt to look like squash players. We were distracted, however, by the squeals of nearby girls as they took their first glance at Jonathon Power. We had a quick laugh, then turned our thoughts to the main event of the afternoon.

After a brief warmup and stretch, we stepped onto court sixteen to meet our first pro, Mark Chaloner. Equipped with a smile, racquet, and squash balls, (including professional white balls which amazed the younger boys on our court) Mark introduced himself. We started a drill involving lunging to pick up a ball and carrying it across court. Simple, right? Not quite. One of us had an embarrassing moment when forced to chase a runaway ball, but Mark gave an understanding

grin and laughed it off. When our fifteen minutes with Mark were up, we left the court and went to our next station, court thirteen with David Palmer.

The next forty-five minutes were spent playing three quarter court with David Palmer, hitting rails with Lucky Odeh, and perfecting our drop shots with Stewart Boswell. The time went by too fast; we were soon told to meet on court two for a picture with the pros. After our picture, players and spectators shared pizza and prepared to watch the qualifying matches of the U.S. Open. The evening ended too quickly, and soon we found ourselves back at school for a night of studying and sleeping.

We awoke the next morning to sore bottoms and shoulders, but memories of the previous afternoon's squash brought smiles to our faces and eased our sore muscles. We loved playing and learning with these amazing squash players,



The "St.Mark's girls" with former US Open Champion Simon Parke.

but the best part of the afternoon was not only meeting the pros, but getting to know their down-to-earth personalities. ■

The Three “C”s that Improved my Game

John Lingos-Webb had a terrific 2001-2002 season in his first year in the very tough Boys Under 17 division. As a result, he was awarded the “Most Improved Player” distinction by the MSRA Junior Committee. We asked John to share his secrets to joining the top ranks of junior squash so quickly.

BY JOHN LINGOS-WEBB

As I reflect on the marked improvement in my game in preparation for the upcoming season, there were 3 major components that made a huge difference for me: the three Cs—Coaching, Conditioning and Competition

Clearly, good coaching is very important to improvement for any junior at whatever level, but it’s also vital to try out a number of different coaches to find the right combination of player and teacher. Styles and personalities are an issue, so shop around until you find someone who meets your expectations. You need to feel comfortable, and leave the court after a lesson exhausted, but exhilarated. Above all, what made a real difference for me was to be mentally and physically well prepared to get the most out of the limited time available with a coach. All this was brought home to me after spending two weeks at Westchester Squash with Richard Millman and Mike Callaway during the past two summers. These guys work you very, both on and off the court. Which brings me to my second C: conditioning.

The program at Westchester includes almost as much time working in the gym with a trainer as it does on court with a coach. If I were to point to one thing that has made the most difference to my game, it is being in great physical shape. I’ve also found huge benefits to cross training, especially for track. We’ve all experienced at one time or another that agonizing feeling of your legs giving out at a crucial time during a match. All those squats and interval training sprints have paid off big-time. I’m quicker to the ball, so my set-up isn’t so rushed and I’ve been thankful many times that quads and lungs

didn’t desert me in that 5th game. Mental conditioning too is important. It’s taken me a while to learn how to keep my cool and re-focus after three flubbed shots in a row! Don’t give your opponent the advantage of knowing he or she has you rattled. Try to stay calm and talk yourself through it. Remember - the last point (or more) is gone, and you can’t change that score, but you can for sure influence the outcome of the next point or two.

I love competition; for me, all the drills in the world don’t substitute for the experience and variety of tournament play. I’m not saying that you don’t need to work on those rails, your length, and getting back to the T pronto, but in my opinion, there really is no substitute for the



"Secret to squash success - cross-training and conditioning - John Lingos-Webb during sprint training."

experience of playing against opponents with vastly different styles. If it were not for the conflicts with the ISL calendar, I would enter more than the 8-10 tournaments I’ve competed in each of the past two seasons. It’s sort of like learning to drive: until you’ve seen a set of circumstances develop in front of you, it’s tough to imagine it. No question, I realize I’ve still got a lot to learn and master in squash, but I feel I’m on the right track to becoming a much better player and competitor. I love this game the more I play it. Sure it’s great to win, but the most important thing, regardless of the outcome, is to just have fun. ■

Massachusetts Squash Racquets Association

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	TOURNAMENT	VENUE (NO. OF COURTS)	DIRECTOR	PHONE
Sep 20 to 22	Newport Junior Open Newport, Rhode Island	St. George's School (7) Newport Squash Club (3)	Chris Lang	(401) 846-1011
Sep 27 to 29	Bowdoin Junior Open Brunswick, Maine	Bowdoin College (5)	Tomas Fortson	(207) 725-3984
Oct 18 to 20	THE EYE OPENER	Boston Sports Club (4)	Patricia Wanner	(617) 731-4177
Dec 6 to 8	MSRA GIRLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS;BOYS & GIRLS FUTURE STARS	Milton Academy (6)	Mike Loucks Drew Webb	(617) 367-8240
Dec 27 to 29	HOLIDAY JUNIORS**	Tennis and Racquet Club (3) MIT Zesinger Center (6)	Lucky Odeh Jimmy Burke	(617) 536-4630
Jan 10 to 12	MASSACHUSETTS** JUNIOR OPEN	Harvard University, Murr Center (16)	Joe Cortes Sarah Cortes	(617) 498-0200
Feb 28 to Mar 2	MASSACHUSETTS** JUNIOR CLOSED <i>MSRA members only</i>	Belmont Hill School (7)	John Ambielli Paul Lesser	(617) 498-0200
End of March	MSRA League Knockout Cup <i>MSRA members only</i>	Harvard University, Murr Center (16)	Chris Spahr	(617) 266-3233

NOTE: All tournaments are officially sanctioned by the USSRA and count toward USSRA rankings. Tournaments in bold capital letters are officially sanctioned by the MSRA and count toward MSRA rankings as well.

2002 to 2003 Standard MSRA Junior Tournament Entry Form

(Valid for use to enter any MSRA Tournament; please make copies for multiple tournaments)

Name of Tournament _____

Player Name _____ USSRA# _____ E-Mail Address _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth ___/___/___ Male Female

Name of School _____

Division (circle): Boys Under 19 17 15 13 11 Girls Under 19 17 15 13 11

USSRA Ranking and Date _____ Other Seeding Info _____

Enclosed is my entry fee for \$ _____

Current MSRA member: Yes No If not a current MSRA or USSRA member, pls. enclose \$35 dues

Release of Liability: I hereby relieve, release and forever discharge and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the participating squash facilities, the MSRA and the USSRA, their agents and employees from any and all claims and demands of any and every kind and character for injury to my person or damage to property as a result of my participation in the above named tournament.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Tournament Results

THE SUMMER DOLDRUMS

Union Boat Club, Boston, MA
September 6-8

Open 2.5

Finals: Michael Pierce beat
William Stocker (3-1)
Semis: Pierce beat Ben Faucett
(3-1)
Semis: Stocker beat Christian
McCall (3-1)

Open 3.5

Finals: Rami Mehio beat Mike
Preston (3-2)
Semis: Mehio beat Christian Von
Hausen (3-0)

Semis: Preston beat Robert Rinaldi
(3-2)

Open 4.5

Finals: Brian Roberts beat
Jonathan Kelly (3-0)

Semis: Roberts beat Don Cordell
(3-0)

Semis: Kelly beat Rami Mehio (3-0)

Open 5.5

Finals: Ron Rubin beat Mike
Semprucci (3-1)

Semis: Semprucci beat Dave
Adams (3-2)

Semis: Rubin beat Jim Usherwood
(3-0)

MSRA Tournaments 2002–2003

***Junior Tournaments are listed on page 10**

***Check the MSRA website** (www.ma-squash.org)
**for updates and changes to the tournament sched-
ule throughout the season.**

Tournament: THE MAINE OPEN

Dates: 10/11/2002 - 10/13/2002

Venue: Bowdoin College

Divisions: M 5.5, 4.5, 3.5, 2.5,
50+, 60+ W 5.0, 4.0, 3.0

Contact: *Tomas Fortson* **Phone:** 207-725-3984

e-mail: tfortson@bowdoin.edu

Tournament: FALL FOLIAGE
DOUBLES CLASSIC

Dates: 10/18/2002 - 10/20/2002

Venue: University Club

Divisions: 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+

Contact: *Chris Spabr* **Phone:** 617-266-3233

e-mail: uclubsquash@yahoo.com

Tournament: MIDDLESEX
BOWL/ WHEELER CUP

Dates: 11/01/2002 - 11/03/2002

Venue: Concord Acton
Squash Club

Divisions: Mens 5.5, 4.5, 3.5, 2.5

Women's 5.0, 4.0, 3.0 Open 50+, 60+, 70+

Contact: *Paul Ansdell* **Phone:** 978-897-2972

e-mail: paulansdell@mindspring.com

Tournament: UNIVERSITY CLUB OPEN

Dates: 12/06/2002 - 12/08/2002

Venue: University Club

Division: A

Contact: *Chris Spabr* **Phone:** 617-266-5600

e-mail: uclubsquash@yahoo.com

Tournament: SUMMERS CUP OPEN

Dates: 12/06/2002 - 12/08/2002

Venue: Union Boat Club

Divisions: B (Co - Ed)

Contact: *Mark Lewis* **Phone:** 617-720-2252

e-mail: lewmark1@mindspring.com

Tournament: DOUBLES HOLIDAY (Softball)

Dates: 12/07/2002 - 12/08/2002

Venue: Maugus Club

Divisions: A B C & 50+ Mixed

Contact: *Merrill Martin* **Phone:** 401-529-3573

e-mail: mm@bluperl.com

Tournament: UNIVERSITY CLUB PRO-AM
DOUBLES

Dates: 01/17/2003 - 01/19/2003

Venue: University Club

Divisions: Open Pro & Pro - Am

Contact: *Tom Poor* **Phone:** 781-826-2792

e-mail: tpoor43@aol.com

Tournament: JANUARY THAW

Dates: 01/17/2003 - 01/19/2003

Venue: Concord Acton Squash Club

Divisions: Mens 5.5, 4.5, 3.5, 2.5 Women's 5.0, 4.0,

MSRA Tournaments 2002–2003

3.0 Open 50+, 55+, 60+

Contact: *Paul Ansdell* **Phone:** 978-897-2972

e-mail: paulansdell@mindspring.com

Tournament: MEN'S STATE SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dates: 02/05/2003 - 04/10/2003

Venue: Local Clubs

Divisions: Skill Level 5.5(A) 4.5(B) 3.5(C) 2.5(D)

Age Groups 35+ - 70+

Contact: *Fran Donlan*

Phone: Work 781 681-4928 Home 781-749-3350

e-mail: fran.donlan@morganstanley.com

Tournament: WOMEN'S STATE SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dates: 02/05/2003 - 04/10/2003

Venue: Various clubs

Divisions: Age Groups 35+ 45+

Contact: *Hope Crosier* **Phone:** 617-723-5379

e-mail: hcrosier912@aol.com

Tournament: A MATURE EVENT

Dates: 02/07/2003 - 02/09/2003

Venue: Maugus Club

Divisions: Men 50+, 60+, 70+,
Women 45+, A, B, C

Contact: *Lewis Holmes* **Phone:** 617-726-1742

e-mail: holmes.lewis@mgh.harvard.edu

Tournament: MSRA HARBALL DOUBLES
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dates: 03/03/2003 - 05/05/2003

Venue: University Club

Divisions: Men's A, B, C; 50+, 60+, Mixed

Contact: *Tom Poor* **Phone:** 781-826-2792

e-mail: tpoor43@aol.com

Tournament: STATE SOFTBALL DOUBLES

Dates: 03/12/2003 - 05/12/2003

Venue: Concord Acton & Maugus Club

Divisions: A, B, C, 50+, 60+ Men & Women

Contact: *Lewis Holmes & Steve Steinberg*

Phone: 617-726-1742 & 978-263-2989

e-mail: holmes.lewis@mgh.harvard.edu

Tournament: THE LEPRACHAUN

Dates: 03/28/2003 - 03/30/2003

Venue: Concord Acton Squash Club

Divisions: Mens 5.5, 4.5, 3.5, 2.5

Women's 5.0, 4.0, 3.0

Contact: *Paul Ansdell* **Phone:** 978-897-2972

e-mail: paulansdell@mindspring.com

Tournament: STATE SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS WOMEN'S
SKILL LEVELS

Dates: 04/04/2003 - 04/06/2003

Venue: Groton School

Divisions: 5.0(A) 4.0(B) 3.0(C)

Contact: *Hope Crosier* **Phone:** 617-723-5379

e-mail: hcrosier912@aol.com

Tournament: M & W STATE SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Dates: 04/10/2003 - 04/10/2003

Venue: Harvard Club

Divisions: All softball divisions men and women

Contact: *Fran Donlan* **Phone:** 781 681-4928

e-mail: fran.donlan@morganstanley.com

MEN'S TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

Fran Donlan • 781-681-4928 W • 781-749-3350 H
781-681-4950 F

fran.donlan@morganstanley.com

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

Hope MacKay Crosier • 617-723-5579 H
hcrosier912@aol.com

Rules & Refereeing Clinic

Admit it: half the time you have no idea whether your opponent deserves a let or a stroke. And admit this, too: you've rarely refereed a match. Well, it's time for both of those facts to change. You now have a perfect opportunity improve your understanding of the rules: Harvard Club teaching pro (and former touring professional) **Sharon Bradey** and the internationally famous referee **Mike Riley** (you've heard him cowing Jonathan Power and other top pros into submission over the years at the U.S. Open) are hosting a rules clinic at the **Harvard Club on Wednesday October 30, on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, from 6:30-8:30 PM**. The clinic will feature an **exhibition match** between the University Club's assistant pro **Jason Hicks** and the Harvard Club's assistant pro **Briggs Johnson**, followed by demonstrations and a question & answer session with Mike Riley. The event is free to all MSRA members, \$10 for non-members. For further information, please call Nat Lovell at 617-262-9040 or Sharon Bradey at 617-450-8481

2002–2003 League Season Begins

As the beginning of the new league season approaches, these are the burning questions. Will the **Union Boat Club** maintain its dominance of the Men's D's? Can the **Harvard Club** build on its **New England Patriots**-like run to the championships of the Men's C? Who will rise to the top of the wide-open Men's B's? Can anyone beat **Lucky Odeh** in the men's A's? And what will happen to **Maugus** now that Lucky's moved to the T & R? Who will take the women's B's championship, now that the Harvard Club's **Kate Lytle** has moved up to the A's?

Leagues will commence play the week of 11/4/02. Teams may be entered in the open divisions, women's divisions, co-ed division, or 50+ division. Women may play on teams in the open divisions at the appropriate skill levels. Entry forms (on facing page) should be mailed to Linda Watts at the address on the entry form and are **DUE BY 10/14/02. THERE IS A \$100 ENTRY FEE PER TEAM.**

Organizers should plan on having at least 6 interested players committed to each team entered in the league (5 for the 3-person 50+ teams). Squash on the national level has made the transition from letter designations for league and tournament play to the use of numeric skill level designations. To avoid confusion, here are the old and new labels as well as the scheduled nights of play:

Mondays	Open D (3.0 -)	50+
Tuesdays	Open A (5.0 +)	Women's C (3.5 -)
Wednesdays	Open B (4.0 – 5.0)	Women's B (3.5 – 4.5)
Thursdays	Open C (3.0 – 4.0)	Women's A (4.5 +)

There is a possibility of scheduling some Friday evening matches for the benefit of clubs who want to

sponsor multiple teams in a division but have court-time constraints. Teams should therefore be prepared to play one or two Friday evenings away per season. (The MSRA understands the potential need to enlist substitutes to field a team given for Friday matches, and will adapt the 50 percent participation requirement rule for playoffs where necessary. We anticipate the Friday night scheduling to primarily affect the Open B league.

Teams from clubs with North American size courts are encouraged but not required to play their regular season matches away. All playoff matches will be held on International size courts. Any team from a club with North American courts which wishes to play all of its matches away should indicate so on their Entry Form. The regular season will end the week of 3/10/2003. Playoffs will commence the week of 3/17/2003 and be completed no later than the week of 4/7/2003. Schedules will be mailed to team captains and squash clubs prior to the start of the season. **MSRA and USSRA Membership** is required for any individual participating in the league. MSRA annual membership (which includes USSRA membership) is now on fixed-year basis (7/1/02 - 6/30/03). See application form below.

ANYQUESTIONS? CALL

CARL CUMMINGS, Open and 50+ Leagues Coordinator
(781-821-5547 (H) 617-345-0444 (W)
carlcummings@hotmail.com

BRY ROSKOZ, Women's and Co-ed Leagues Coordinator
617-424-9131 (H) 617-572-2811 (W) bry.roskoz@bain.com

LINDA WATTS, Scheduling Coordinator
781-397-8899 (H) 617-578-3064 (W) lwatts@nef.com

2002–2003 SQUASH LEAGUES TEAM ENTRY FORM

Sponsoring Club _____

Club Contact _____

Telephone _____

Start Time (PM)

7:00 6:45 6:30 6:15 6:00

Team # _____

Level: Open A(5.0+) B (4.0-5.0) C (3.0-4.0) D (3.0-) 50+

Women's A (4.5+) B (3.5-4.5) C (3.5-)

Captain _____

(H) Phone _____

Address _____

(W) Phone _____

FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

Schedule as an AWAY Team for all matches:

YES NO

Player's names (*last name, first name*)

TO ENTER ADDITIONAL TEAMS, MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM!!

Send the registration form **with \$100. entry fee per team!** to:

Linda Watts 3 Huntley St., Malden, MA 02148

(H) 781-397-8899 (W) 617-578-3064 lwatts@nef.com

Squash Rules Trivia Challenge

Last issue's Squash Rules Trivia Scenario was as follows:

Pam loses a rally and then appeals one of Kate's shots early in the rally that was not called by the marker. What should the outcome of the rally be if the referee is uncertain about the shot?

- Kate wins rally
- Pam wins rally
- Let
- None of the above

Though a number of people guessed 'a', the correct answer was 'c' (let). The lucky winners of last issue's trivia challenge—drawn randomly from among the correct respondents—are **Myke Farricker** and **Mike Lapham**. Each wins a squash racket from the MSRA. (**Jennifer Watson** also answered correctly but was

the odd woman out in the drawing—try again, Jennifer!)

Want to prove your knowledge of the squash rules? Play this issue's installment of the squash rules challenge. Just read the scenario below and e-mail your answer to **MSRANews@aol.com**. Randomly drawn winners from among the correct respondents will win prizes from the MSRA.

THE SCENARIO:

Jay and Toby are playing a point. Jay runs to the front corner to retrieve a drop shot and his goggles fall off. He retrieves the drop and Toby misses the next shot. Toby asks for a let because the falling goggles distracted him. What should the referee call? ■

This contest is open to MSRA members only.

MSRA Classifieds

SQUASH & FITNESS

The Longfellow Club in Wayland, MA, seeks a part-time squash pro to run clinics on Wednesday and Friday mornings, and for a few hours on weekends. Opportunity also to provide private lessons. Call Myke Farricker at **508-358-7355**.

Congratulations Wellesley College squash on one of the best years yet—and here's to the new season! Looking for a first class college education combined with a squash program that will fulfill your potential? Call Wellesley College squash at **1-781-283-2020** for more information.

I'm **LOOKING TO BUY** a used treadmill or recumbent bicycle. **spueschel@hotmail.com**

For martial artists: Various sizes of adult martial arts hand and foot protective gear (red), \$20/pair. Padded practice Nunchucks, \$15/pair. **MIKE (617) 510-8534**.

MSRA PERSONALS

I'm not a squash player, and have little interest in the sport, but I like men who are smart and physically fit and I'm told squash players are both. Who am I? I'm a thin, brown-haired, overeducated, SWF, 32, who earns her living as a teacher and writer. Someday—soon, I hope—I will be famous for my novels. I can't offer you a squash game, but if you're looking for fun, romance, and possibly something more serious, e-mail me at **jarpborg@aol.com**

Thin, athletic, sports-addled, somewhat shy, Ivy-educated lawyer, 33, seeks kind and funny woman for good times, friendship, and the possibility of romance. E-mail: **anilbruschi@aol.com**

RATES & DETAILS

Want to sell a racquet? Find more squash partners? Get a date? Try MSRA News classifieds. E-mail **MSRANews@aol.com** for rates and details.

MISCELLANEOUS

For stylish, hip clothes and accessories for a night on the town visit **Hussygear.com**

Great graphic design for newsletters, posters, logos, brochures etc. Call Meg Birnbaum at 617-491-7826 or email **m_birnbaum@attbi.com**

We help you coordinate
and develop your
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www.mezodesign.com

617.499.0044



Massachusetts
www.ma-squash.org

Squash
Racquets Association



• **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** •

ANNUAL ADULT Dues:\$45
(includes 1 year membership to USSRA)

LIFE MSRA Dues:\$400 (includes 1 year membership to USSRA in first year only)*

ANNUAL JUNIOR Dues: \$35
(includes 1 year membership to USSRA)

Life MSRA/USSRA Dues:\$1400
(no further dues required)*

*Note:Life membership to MSRA does not include membership to USSRA and vice-versa.Current USSRA annual dues for MSRA Life Members is \$25.Current MSRA annual dues for USSRA-only Life Members is \$20. **Annual Memberships expire on June 30.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

(H) Tel: _____ (W) Tel: _____
(_____)

H) E-mail: _____ (W) E-mail: _____

• Please circle the telephone number(s) you would NOT like published in the directory.

PLEASE HELP THE MSRA SAVE POSTAGE AND PRINTING COSTS

Electronic Newsletter Mailing via E-Mail ONLY: YES (USE Home e-mail or Work e-mail

Postal Newsletter Mailing (households with 2 or more memberships):

Please mail 1 copy to household to _____

OR mail 1 copy to each member of household _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Sex: Male
Female

USSRA#: _____

Club/School: _____ Rating: _____

Level of Play: Men Pro (6.0) 5.0 (A) 4.0 (B) 3.0 (C) 2.5 (D)

Women Pro (5.5) 4.5 (A) 3.5 (B) 2.5 (C) 2.0 (D)

Mail Application to:MSRA
P.O. Box 1611
Boston,MA 02205-1611

Checks made payable to:MSRA