

MSRANews

MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What a memorable squash season it's been. It seems like ages ago that we were all looking forward to the US Open's debut at Symphony Hall last fall. Suddenly, the tragedies of September 11 made our world stand still and our squash events seem irrelevant. The loss and sadness that entered our lives was immeasurable; going back to life as usual seemed impossible. That crossroad in time was a point at which many people re-evaluated their priorities and commitments. It would have been understandable if the September tragedies had produced malaise or apathy in our athletic lives.

But any such apathy was only temporary. I sense a re-dedication to our communities, and that includes the squash community. MSRA league and tournament participation and membership is up this year for the first time in several years. Maybe it's the total immersion—the presence, focus, and effort—that the sport requires. Maybe it's because of the friends we make and look forward
continued on page 2

Summer League Squash

Want to make sure your game is sharp for the fall? Keep fit through the summer? Make new friends and have an excuse to drink beer on summer evenings? Then sign up for the MSRA's new **co-ed summer league**. Each team will consist of four players of any level and any gender. (Matches between players of different skill levels will be handicapped by a still-to-be determined system; the MSRA's team of crack statisticians is developing that system now.) The league begins on **Tuesday, June 25**, and the regular season will continue on Tuesday nights through August 13. The top four teams will make the playoffs, which will be held the last two weeks of August.

If you're interested in playing, contact your club's team captain or club pro to sign up. And if your club isn't yet fielding a team, then start one yourself. Clubs can field multiple teams. (Bear in mind, however, that each team should have at least six committed players in order to allow for the inevitable injuries, vacations, and other absences. MSRA membership is required for all players.) To sign up a team, fill out and mail the form on page 4—along with a \$100 entry fee per team made payable to the MSRA—to Linda Watts by no later than June 7. If you would like further information about the summer league, please contact Bry Rosko, Women's and Co-ed Leagues Coordinator (her contact information is on page 19) Hope to see you out there this summer. Which club will win the first summer league championship? ■

Doherty Wins Borie Award

One of the highlights of the MSRA's annual meeting is always the announcement of the Ellen Borie Trophy award winner. Ellen Borie was a graduate student in mathematics at Harvard who was killed in a car accident in 1970 after being on the Boston squash scene for only a short time. In 1971 the award was named in Borie's honor for the good sportsmanship, potential, and spirit she exhibited. It is awarded each year by the MSRA to an individual who has made significant contributions to women's squash and the Massachusetts squash community.

At this year's annual meeting, held on May 6 at the University Club, the Ellen Borie award was given to **Orla**



COURTESY OF WWW.SQUASHBUSTERS.ORG

Doherty. In presenting the award, MSRA women's league coordinator Bry Rosko said:

Orla has given so much of her time and energy over the past few years to
continued on page 2

Borie Award *continued from page 1*

squash in Massachusetts and beyond. As many of you know, Orla is the Director of Squash at Squashbusters, which provides academic tutoring, mentoring, community service and squash instruction and competition to a diverse set of middle and high school students in Boston and Cambridge. She has had enormous impact on 56 kids' lives so far through her position at



SQUASHBUSTERS.ORG

Rendering of the new squash facility at Northeastern set to open in the fall of 2002.

SquashBusters. One of her co-workers commented that "Orla's natural sense to provide positive incentive and encouragement, balance hard work and fun and ultimately to keep a sense of humor, instills both a deep commitment in junior players for the the game of squash and a long rich life for the Massachusetts squash community."

What you may not know about are the many other ways in which Orla has devoted time and energy to squash. These include: running the MSRA junior league and MSRA Knock-Out Cup for the past two years; assisting with many area junior tournaments; co-organizing this year's Howe Cup, the National women's team event, here in Boston; winning the 30+

PRESIDENT'S LETTER *continued from page 1*

to seeing through playing it. Maybe it's the comfort in the routine of a regular game, or the sense of pure cleansing after a hard match and a hot shower. Whatever the reason, squash can be a wonderful antidote to a stressful world.

A statement someone

made at the US National's dinner this past March summed this up: "Squash not only brings out the best people, it brings out the best in people." Congratulations to everyone who played and had fun this year.

—Jeannie Blasberg,
MSRA PRESIDENT

draw and being a finalist in the 5.0 skill level draw at Nationals in New Haven this year; bringing an even greater spotlight to Boston women's squash; serving as one of two New England representatives on the USSRA Women's Committee; and serving as the Assistant Coach for the 2001 USA junior team that went to the Pan American Federation Cup in Mexico. Finally, Orla has been described by those who have benefited from her warmth and knowledge as "a loyal friend who will show up at ungodly hours at tournaments to coach a friend." Orla has clearly been a role model for kids and adults in her play, attitude, sportsmanship and in giving back to the community.

After receiving the Borie Award, Doherty made a SquashBusters presentation, in which she announced that construction was about to begin on the new squash facility at Northeastern that will be the future home of the SquashBusters program. The facility will allow the program to accommodate a much larger number of youths from the inner city communities that SquashBusters aims to reach. It will also allow these young players to remain in the program through high school. For more information on SquashBusters go to <http://www.squashbusters.org/> ■

MSRANews



MSRA News is published three times per year

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

EDITOR: Scott Stossel

NEWSLETTER DESIGN: Meg Birnbaum 617-491-7826
m_birnbaum@attbi.com

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

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE: Jeannie Blasberg,
Jesse Chai, Phil Constable, Sarah Lemaire and Tom Poor

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION may be obtained from:
P.O. Box 51611, Boston, MA 02205-1611 or
MSRA2000@hotmail.com

Comments or suggestions may be addressed to:
Scott Stossel, Editor, MSRANews,
MSRANews@aol.com

Coaching Clinic Comes to Massachusetts

The USSRA Coaching Level I Clinic came to our region during the weekend of May 3-5. The MSRA's own Doug Eng and Mike Loucks helped coordinate this effort and Nobles & Greenough School hosted this clinic in its beautiful new squash facility. Craig Thorpe Clark, the men's coach at Penn, and Bill McNally, who coaches at Connecticut College, were the instructors of this extremely thorough and well-planned weekend. There were 15 students in the clinic—

10 from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The course is intended to introduce basic coaching practices and methods such as implementing drills and skill routines applicable to both group and individual lessons. The MSRA looks forward to continuing the development of the region's coaches and hopes to bring the USSRA Coaching Level 2 Clinic to the region next year. If you missed the Nobles clinic and would like to attend one, contact the USSRA at 610-667-4006. ■

MSRA Classifieds!

Want to sell a racquet?
Find a doubles
partner? Meet new
opponents? Find a date?
Rent your home? Hire a
graphic designer?

Try MSRA classifieds.

FOR RATES AND DEADLINES
EMAIL

MSRANews@aol.com

Boston Women Dominate at US Nationals

In baseball, there are the **New York Yankees**. In basketball, there are the **Los Angeles Lakers**. In hockey, there are the **Montreal Canadiens**. And in women's squash there are...**the ladies of Massachusetts**? Fresh from their dominance of the Howe Cup team tournament last fall, where they successfully defended their A-Division championship and won the C-Division, MSRA members descended on New Haven en masse and tore through the draws at all levels and age groups. If Massachusetts women continue their sterling play, they'll be worthy of mention in the same breath with the Yankees and the Lakers. MSRA women are surely already as feared—though we hope not as loathed—as the Yankees. MSRA President Jeannie Blasberg writes:

Entering the squash facility at Yale University during the US National Championships this March could have been very intimidating for this relatively inexperienced tournament player. With sixteen courts spanning the complex, including three freestanding glass courts, stadium seating, and hundreds of players, coaches, and fans roaming around, it could have been very nerve-wracking. It could have been, but it wasn't because MSRA women were everywhere. In practically every draw and hanging around the courts there were familiar faces. "Go Boston" was a common cheer during many of the matches over the course of the weekend. Energized by our successes at the Howe Cup, more Boston women than ever ventured out on the National "scene." Not only did they venture out, but they dominated in many cases.

- 35+ Winner: **Sharon Bradey**
(Harvard Club Squash Pro)
- 35+ finalist: **Wendy Ansdell**
(Concord Acton Squash Club Assistant Pro)
- 30+ winner: **Orla Doherty**
(Director of Squash at SquashBusters)
- Women's open, 8th Place: **Hope Prockop**
(Groton School girl's squash coach). Hope is now contending for a slot on the US National team!
- 2.5 skill level semi-finalists: **Nicole Zola**
(University Club) and **Bernadette Dixon**
(Cambridge Racquet Club)
- 3.0 skill level champion: **Bry Roskoz**
(University Club)
- 3.5 skill level champion: **Liz Reynolds**
(University Club)
- 3.5 skill level runner-up: **Liz Lambert**
(Cambridge Racquet Club)
- 3.5 skill level semifinalist: **Meredith Johnson**
(University Club)
- 4.5 skill level finalist: **Jeannie Blasberg**
(Harvard Club)
- 5.0 skill level finalist: **Orla Doherty**,
(SquashBusters)

GET READY FOR HOWE CUP -
THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 20, 2002
in WASHINGTON, DC!

Now the men of the MSRA need to show what they can do on the national squash scene—the women are putting them to shame! ■

Squash Pros Tighten Strings for Symphony Hall Debut

Squash racquets—not batons—will be raised during the first-ever sporting event to be held at Boston's world-renowned Symphony Hall, when 28 of the world's best squash players compete for the 2002 **U.S. Open Championship** between September 12-15, 2002. Top-ten world-ranked players committed to playing in the Open include such international stars as defending champion **Peter Nicol** of Scotland and former champion **Jonathon Power** of Canada, as well as **Thierry Lincou** of France and perennial fan favorite **Chris Walker** of England.

"The sound of sneakers squeak-

ing on a court floor has been likened to a kind of music," quips **John Nimick**, president of Event-Engine, the company that produces the tournament. "But the Pops needn't fear. I think their home is secure!"

Four matches per session will be played on the floor of Symphony Hall, as players compete for the U.S. national championship and a purse totaling \$60,000. **MSRA Night** will be Thursday, September 12. On that evening, MSRA members will be entitled to discount seats located in prime courtside sections. On Saturday, September 14, the MSRA will hold a **special junior clinic**, coordinated by

Michael Loucks, on the court in Symphony Hall.

If you've been to previous U.S. Opens you know this is an experience not to be missed. If you've never been, it's worth checking out. You'll see athleticism, skill, and willpower raised to an art form—which makes it only appropriate that you'll also be seeing the first sporting event ever to be held in that bastion of culture, Symphony Hall.

Patron packages and individual tickets go on sale May 24, 2002. For information and ordering, contact Melissa Winstanley at 877-524-5685 or mmwinstanley@aol.com. ■

Summer 2002 Squash League Team Entry Form

Sponsoring Club _____

Schedule as an AWAY Team for all matches:

YES NO

Club Contact _____

Team # _____

Telephone _____

Captain _____

Start Time

7:00 PM 6:45 PM 6:30 PM

(H) Phone _____

(W) Phone _____

Team # _____

Captain _____

FAX _____

(H) Phone _____

Address _____

(W) Phone _____

E-MAIL _____

FAX _____

Address _____

Schedule as an AWAY Team for all matches:

YES NO

E-MAIL _____

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@nefn.com

State Championships Roundup

On April 9, the first warm day after a long stretch of unseasonably cold early spring weather, local squash fans packed the galleries of the Union Boat Club to watch the finals of the state championships. Aside from the **Women's B** final—which had had been played over the weekend (with **Alison Amherst** beating **Pam Larson Kaneb** 3-2)—and the women's **45+** (in which **Molly Downer** beat **Betsy Johnson**), the finals of all the age groups and skill level draws were played over the course of a single action-packed evening. With the UBC providing its distinctive mixture of new courts and old-school ambience, highlights abounded. Here are just a few of them:

In the **Men's C** final, 14 year-old **John Fulham**, a waif in braces, came back from 2-0 down to beat the Harvard Club's **Jay Bradner**, 9-7 in the fifth game. It helped that Fulham, a Maugus player, got Lucky—**Lucky Odeh**, that is, who provided Fulham with his coaching wisdom throughout the match. Fulham cut a vicious swathe through the Harvard Club's C team on his way to the final, beating both **Toby Lester** and **Mike Weinbach** before dispatching Bradner. (Against Weinbach, the fittest player in the C-division, Fulham came back from two games down, as he would do against Bradner in the final.)

In the **Men's B** final, **Brian Roberts's** relentless, acrobatic retrievals wore down the University Club's **Ric Calvillo**. Throwing himself headlong into the corners, Cambridge Racquet Club's Roberts was just too much for Calvillo and won 9-6, 9-6, 9-2. A day earlier, in the semifinals, Roberts reprised his last year's victory over the Harvard Club's **Peter Manuelian**, this time winning 3-0, as fitness trumped shotmaking. Roberts's toughest match enroute to the finals was against last year's State C division champ **David Driscoll**, now a fixture of the Union Boat Club B's. Calvillo had a tougher route to the final, winning consecutive pitched battle upsets over Boston Sports Club's **Duncan Walker** (4-9, 9-2, 7-9, 9-4, 10-8) and Maugus's **Rich Schafer** (4-9, 9-3, 0-9, 9-7, 9-7). In truth, a case can be made that both Roberts and Calvillo were fortunate to have done as well as they did, since Concord-Acton's **Wendy Ansdell**, who had beaten both Calvillo and Roberts in recent months, pulled up lame in the fifth game (7-5 up) of her quarterfinal match against Schaefer. Had she closed that out, she may well have gone on to take out both Calvillo and Roberts. The way Roberts was retrieving, however, it would have been hard to bet against him.

continued on page 7



(L to R) Jay Bradner, finalist, and John Fulham, winner, Men's C division.



Brian Roberts, winner and Ric Calvillo, finalist, Men's B division.



Dave Fehr, finalist, and Malcolm Davidson, winner, Men's 50+.



Bob Brownell, winner, and Ron Beck, finalist Men's 40+.



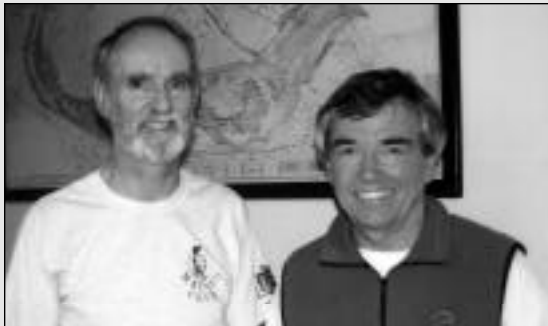
Lucky Odeh, winner, and Chris Spahr, finalist, Men's A division.



(L to R) Ron Beck, winner and Mark Panarese, finalist, Men's 45+.



(L to R) Walker Jones, finalist, and Fred Eustis, winner, Men's D division.



Roy McCauley, finalist, and Mike Keating, winner, Men's 60+ division.



Jeannie Blasberg, finalist, and Sharon Bradey, winner, Women's 35+.



Hope Prockop, finalist, and Sharon Bradey, winner, Women's A division.



Nicole Zola, finalist, and Stacey Denenberg, winner, Women's C division.



Tyler Hinderman, winner, and Phil Constable, finalist, Men's 35+.



Mike Keating, finalist, and Wayne Hodges, winner, Men's 55+.

With **Fran Donlan** out of the draw in the **over-50s**, **David Fehr** ran **Malcolm Davidson** all over the court—yet still lost 3-0, a victim of Davidson’s superior shotmaking.

The iron men and woman of Finals Night were **Mike Keating**, **Ron Beck**, and **Sharon Bradey**. Keating (who seems to be a member of every squash club in the greater Boston area) successfully defended his championship early in the evening over **Roy McCauley** in the **over-60s**, then fell 3-1 in the **55s** to **Wayne Hodges** late in the evening. Beck lost early in the evening to **Bob Brownell** in the **over-40s**, but recovered to beat **Mark Panarese** in the finals of the **over-45s** late in the evening. (In an earlier round, Brownell had scored an upset in beating **Phil Constable**—this allowed Constable to achieve a rare feat: he did better in the **over-35s**, where he lost in the “battle-of-the-bandana” finals to **Tyler Hindermann**, than he did in the over-40s.) And

Bradey proved that giving lessons all day and drinking Guinness at night can be an effective fitness regimen: after beating **Jeannie Blasberg** 3-0 in the finals of the women’s **over-35s**, she withstood a late charge by **Hope Prockop** to prevail 3-1 in the finals of the **women’s A** championship.

The evening’s marquee match-up pitted University Club teaching pro **Chris Spahr** against the incomparable Lucky Odeh in the **Men’s Open** championship. Spahr had cruised to the final, upsetting defending champion **Ron Rubin** 3-0 in the semis. In the other semi, Odeh had beaten two-time state champ **Ali Merchant** of MIT, 3-1. The gallery oohed and aahed at Odeh’s retrievals but the Nigerian’s unforced errors kept the dogged Spahr in the match. In the end, however, Spahr simply didn’t have enough in his arsenal to outduel Lucky, and Odeh became state champ by a score of 3-1. Will this be the first of a string of championships for Odeh? Or is there someone waiting in the wings to dethrone him? We’ll find out next year. ■

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Leprechaun

March 22-24, 2002

OPEN A FINAL

Dave Adams beat
Derek Moran 3-1

OPEN B FINAL

Richard von Hirschberg
beat Duncan Walker 3-1

OPEN C FINAL

Kevin Hollister beat
Phil Adams 3-1

OPEN D FINAL

Brian Bernasconi beat
Eric Jones 3-0

WOMEN’S A

1st Place: Hope Prockop
2nd Place: Wendy Ansdell
3rd Place: Orla Doherty

WOMEN’S B FINAL

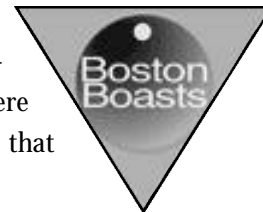
Neeley Steinberg beat
Chrisy Jones 3-1

WOMEN’S C FINAL

Naomi Bradshaw beat
Bernadette Dixon 3-1

Featured Website: The Boston Boasts

The common perception of squash has long been that it is an exclusionary sport catering only to the affluent, the white, the traditional, and the aristocratic. Historically, that perception may have been generally accurate—it’s not for nothing that squash has been called a “WASP herd-thinning mechanism” (for all the Brahmins who have dropped dead while playing it)—and even today one can find bastions of squash elitism that seem contentedly mired in the pre-Civil Rights era. But squash is increasingly open to wider swathes of society. For instance the SquashBusters program, along with programs like it in other cities, seek actively to expose inner-city populations to the sport. And the mere existence of the **Boston Boasts** puts the lie to the notion that squash appeals only to traditional establishment types.



Based at the Greater Boston YMCA on Huntington Avenue, the Boston Boasts are the nation’s oldest (at 11 years) and largest gay and lesbian squash league. The Boasts’ mission, as it is described on their web site, is “to provide access to the sport of squash racquets in a safe and supportive environment where gay men and women, and our friends, can create community and raise funds for charitable purposes. We seek to build bridges to the community at large so that tolerance and understanding of our similarities, and differences, may be achieved.” On the site you can learn about such programs as Boasts’ weekly round robins, their “Spring Thang” fundraising party, and their charitable endeavors. At the very least the site is worth visiting for the cool bouncing squash ball that greets web surfers upon arrival. Check it out at www.bostonboasts.com ■

Squash Rules Trivia Contest

A number of people managed to answer correctly last issue's trivia question. (The correct answer was #4: "No Let." See the Winter 2002 newsletter, available online, for the scenario that resulted in this outcome.) Unfortunately, due to the vicissitudes of America Online—which, your loyal *MSRA News* Editor has learned after many painful hours on the phone with the AOL help desk, automatically deletes all e-mail after 27 days—those respondents are now lost to history. Apologies to all who answered correctly and missed out on the chance to win a racket.

The good news, however, is that we're going to play a let: *MSRA News* is happy to bring you another tricky squash scenario through which you can demonstrate your knowledge of the rules of the game. And this time we have two brand new Dunlop squash rackets to give away to correct respondents. Rackets will be awarded to two randomly drawn winners from among all respondents answering correctly by July 1, 2002. The names of all people who answer the question correctly will be printed in the Fall newsletter.

Here's how to play. Read the scenario below and

determine what call the referee should make. Then send your answer by e-mail to **MSRANews@aol.com**. (Don't worry: we'll save all names before they vanish this time.) Be sure to include the correct answer, as well as your name, telephone number, and address.

With two rackets up for grabs, your odds of winning are good. And what better way to prove to your argumentative weekly opponent that you know the rules of the game better than he does than by having your name highlighted in the *MSRA News* as a rules expert?




THE SCENARIO:

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?

- A) Kate wins rally
- B) Pam wins rally
- C) let
- D) none of the above

This contest is open to MSRA members only. ■



**Improve your game,
study the pros on video.**

www.SquashTalk.com

squash news, information, and merchandise

WOMEN'S A-LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Though there are not currently enough top-level women in the Boston area to field a conventional league, there's plenty of activity among the top women players. Under the direction of MSRA President **Jeannie Blasberg**, many of the best women players in the state gathered monthly for Ladies Nights at various clubs. Makeshift teams—the **Harvard Club**, the **Concord-Acton Squash Club**, the **University Club**, and the so-called “orphan team”—battled for supremacy while individual players challenged each other seeking to rise higher in the ranks. Some of the season highlights included:

- ◆ the dominating presence of Women's Champ **Sharon Bradey**;
- ◆ the return to the court of **Char Joslin** and **Mary McKee** after the expansion of their respective families;
- ◆ the play of the apparently unstoppable Concord-Acton squad headed by **Hope Prockop** and **Wendy Ansdell**
- ◆ the arrival late in the season of **Lindsay Bishop**, a recent Dartmouth graduate;
- ◆ matches against top college teams **Trinity** and **Harvard**.

The high level of competition and the spirit of camaraderie that the Ladies Nights fostered were undoubtedly crucial factors in the national success (at the Howe Cup and the US Nationals) MSRA women enjoyed this season. As the B and C leagues continue to produce future A-level players, the Women's A program will continue to grow and improve.

WOMEN'S 5.0 FINAL INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

1. Sharon Bradey
2. Hope Prockop
3. Wendy Ansdell
4. Mary McKee
5. Orla Doherty
6. Hope Crosier
7. Shona Kerr
8. Jeannie Blasberg
9. Sue Rafuse
10. Janie Coolidge
11. Beth Snell
12. Charlotte Joslin
13. Kate Lytle
14. Marybeth Horn
15. Elizabeth Reynolds

WOMEN'S B-LEAGUE ROUNDUP

The University Club led the Women's B league all season and ended up with 59 regular-season points. **The Harvard Club** came in second during the regular season with 41 points. However, the **Cambridge Racquet Club** pulled off a great upset in the first round of the playoffs, beating the University Club, 3-1. Cambridge went on to play Harvard Club (who had defeated the **Boston Sports Club** in the first week of the playoffs) in the finals but was not able to pull off another upset.

New MSRA player **Kate Lytle**, a 2001 graduate of Cornell University playing for the Harvard Club, easily topped the Women's B league rankings and will be promoted to the A league next season. Rounding out the top five spots in the Women's B division are **Allison Amherst** (Cambridge Racquet), **Pam Kaneb** (Harvard Club), **Meredith Johnson** (University Club), and **Beth Collins** (T&R).

Allison defeated Pam 3-2 to win the state championship.

—by Sarah Lemaire

WOMEN'S 4.0 TEAM CHAMPIONS

HARVARD CLUB

Pam Larson Kaneb, Captain
Mary Beth Horn
Betsy Johnson
Jothie Karthigesan
Kate Lytle
Jody Hill Simpson

FINAL WOMEN'S 4.0 INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

1. Kate Lytle
2. Alison Amherst
3. Pam Kaneb
4. Meredith Johnson
5. Beth Collins
6. Neely Steinberg
7. Tina Wu
8. Lisa Evans
9. Margo Grossberg
10. Liz Brecht
11. Bry Roskoz
12. Sarah Manoog
13. Macie Finkelstein
14. Angel Kozeli
15. Dominique Farinaux-Dumas

WOMEN'S C LEAGUE ROUND-UP

The Women's C league had six teams for the 2001-2002 season: **Cambridge Racquet & Fitness**, **Concord-Acton**, **Boston Racquet Club/Harvard Club** (a joint team), **Healthpoint, Tennis & Racquet**, and **The University Club**. The lead in the weekly standings changed several times in the beginning of the season, but eventually Cambridge moved into first place to stay, winning the league with 54 points over second-place Concord-Acton (45 points) and

third-place Healthpoint (44 points). The playoffs ran consistent with the end-of-season standings: In the semi-finals, Cambridge Racquet defeated T&R and Concord-Acton beat Healthpoint. The Cambridge women, led by captain **Maria Mayorga**, scored a decisive 3-1 victory over Concord-Acton in the finals, but both teams celebrated after the matches with a delicious dinner at Helmand Restaurant in Cambridge.

Naomi Bradshaw of Healthpoint, in her first full season playing in the league, was a clear choice for the #1 ranking, having lost only one match all season. **Julia Nickrosz**, a junior playing for Concord-Acton in her first season of league play, was ranked #2. **Stacey Denenberg** of Cambridge won the state championship and was ranked #3. In the finals of the State Championship, Stacey defeated **Nicole Zola** of The University Club, who improved her results all season to finish with the #4 ranking.

—by Sarah Lemaire

**WOMEN'S 3.0 TEAM CHAMPIONS
CAMBRIDGE RACQUET AND FITNESS CLUB**

Maria Mayorga, Captain
Pixie Aquino
Heather Cheney
Stacey Denenberg
Bernadette Dixon
Ania Lever

FINAL WOMEN'S 3.0 INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

1. Naomi Bradshaw
2. Julia Nickrosz
3. Stacey Denenberg
4. Nicole Zola
5. Martha Payne
6. Bernadette Dixon
7. Maria Mayorga

8. Lisa Wolf
9. Jen North
10. Jane Adams
11. Patricia Wada
12. Jane Wiseman
13. Pixie Aquino
14. Laurie Manos
15. Phoebe Slanetz

OPEN A-LEAGUE ROUND-UP

With the eight playoff slots fairly well secured before the end of the regular season (**Harvard Club**, **Boston Racquet Club**, and the **Harvard Has Beens** found themselves on the outside looking in), the greatest suspense came from two other sources. First, would the **University Club's** perennial top-ten player **Doug Lifford** play enough matches down the stretch to be eligible for the playoffs? (He did.) And second, would the **Maugus Club's** Nigerian superstar **Lucky Odeh** complete the A-League's first undefeated season since **Angus Kirkland** decamped for England in the late 1990s? (He didn't, finishing an impressive 12-1 after losing to **Preston Amos** late in the season.)

In the first round of the playoffs, 7th-seeded University Club squeaked out a 3-2 victory over 2nd-seeded **Concord-Acton**, winning 7-6 on games thanks to Lifford's first victory of the season. Number three seed **MIT** handled the **Boston Sports Club** 2 team with relative ease, though BSC 2's **Harrison Sebring** did hand MIT's **Irfan Chaudhary** only his second loss of the season. 5th-seeded Maugus had to play without their anchor Odeh, but went down fighting, with **Mike Semprucci**, securing **Maugus's** lone victory over **Patrick Fiscoeder**.

Defending champion **Boston Sports Club** 1 cruised easily

through the quarters and semis, crushing **Union Boat Club** 4-0 without losing a game. In the other semifinal University Club, led by **Sal Llach** and the resurgent Lifford, beat MIT. Chaudhary provided MIT's only victory, beating the UClub's assistant pro **Jason Hicks**.

Going into the final, BSC 1 looked once again to be the best and deepest team. Though BSC 1's **Ron Rubin** dropped from #1 to #3 in the state individual rankings this year, he was still playing well. But the resurgent University Club had scored some impressive upsets and Hicks had already beaten Rubin earlier in a regular season match. It didn't look like things would be easy for the defending champs.

The #4 spot pitted the BSC's **Bill Kaplan** against **Gerry Kirschner** in a classic match-up of experience and guile versus (relative) youth and legs. Experience prevailed 3-1 in a tight match. At the #3 spot, **Doug Lifford**, completing a remarkable comeback in the league, slipped by **Vivek Nayar** 3-2 in a tough match. At #2 BSC's **John Higgins** sprinted to a 2-0 lead before Sal Llach found his rhythm and took the third game. The comeback fell short in the fourth as John closed out the match 3-1. At #1, in the match of the evening, Ron Rubin was looking to avenge his regular season loss to Jason Hicks at the University Club. The match was not to be decided until 9 all in the fifth where after several match points for both opponents (and a match ball served out of court by Ron) Ron—and BSC 1—emerged victorious. (This report was largely drawn from the dispatches of A-League Chair **Phil Constable**.)

**OPEN 5.5 TEAM
CHAMPIONS
BOSTON SPORTS CLUB**

Michael deForest, Captain
John Higgins
Bill Kaplan
Vivek Nayar
Ron Rubin

**FINAL OPEN 5.5
INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS**

1. Lucky Odeh
 2. Paul Ansdell
 3. Ron Rubin
 4. Harrison Sebring
 5. Irfan Chaudhary
 6. Ali Merchant
 7. Craig Rappaport
 8. Preston Amos
 9. D. Tyler Hindermann
 10. John Higgins
-

OPEN B-LEAGUE ROUNDUP

In the Men's B League, the burning question after the first half of the season appeared to be whether anyone could catch **Concord-Acton**. Unbeatable (and dominantly so) through the early part of the season, CASC looked more vulnerable after **Andre Guldi** moved away. Still, they appeared to be the team to beat and for most of the season it appeared that no one could. But in the waning weeks of the season, **Maugus Club 2** and **Healthpoint 2**, two teams that had played solidly but quietly well all season, enjoyed late resurgences and began dominating opponents the way CASC had earlier on. Maugus 2, already led by top-five player **Rich Schafer**, was fueled by the return to form of **Eric Godes**, who had spent the early part of the season recovering from injury. And Healthpoint was powered by **Reese Genser** who, after spending much of the season playing indifferently at the

three and four slots, came on very strong in the final weeks, winning all his final matches (including a decisive victory over Schafer) at the #1 slot as the season wound down and playoffs began. (The league's top-ranked player, **Tim Wakeling**, was prevented from going head-to-head with other big guns in the playoffs when his team, **Andover**, failed to qualify.)

In the first round of the playoffs, top seeded Concord handled the **Boston Athletic Club** without too much difficulty, though racketballer **John Gillooly** did beat **Wendy Ansdell** 3-0 at the number one slot. Second-seeded Maugus 2 had all they could handle with the **University Club**. The UClub's **Tyler Hill**, who may have been the most consistent player at the #2 slot all season (indeed, he finished higher in the rankings than UClub #1 **Ric Calvillo**) beat Godes, and **David Shulman** won for the Uclub at the #4 slot. Only victories by Schafer and **Peter Goodall** at the #1 and #3 slots allowed Maugus Two to prevail on games. In the other quarterfinal matches **Cambridge Racquet Club**, led by state champ **Brian Roberts** beat **Maugus 1** and **Healthpoint 2** absolutely destroyed a fading **Harvard Club** squad that had been devastated by injuries.

The semifinal matches were epic. Concord-Acton beat Cambridge Racquet on the strength of **Wendy Ansdell's** defeat of **Brian Roberts**. And though Genser stunned Schafer at #1, **Healthpoint 2** lacked (due to some unexpected late season challenge match results) its usual depth and fell to **Maugus Two**.

Tragedy befell **Concord-Acton** before the final. Ansdell, one point away from sending Schafer to defeat in the fifth game of the

quarterfinals of the state championship, pulled a muscle, leading her to default the match and rendering her unfit to play the league final. Thus though Concord-Acton's **Richard Von Hirschberg** defeated Schafer 3-1 at the number one slot, without Ansdell everyone else on the Concord squad had to play up a spot. **Bob Frazier** beat **Mauricio Poodts** at number two, Godes defeated **Erik Kirby** at number 3, and Goodall defeated **Roger Jones** at #4, making Maugus Two B-league champions by a score of 3-1.

**OPEN 4.5 TEAM CHAMPIONS
MAUGUS CLUB**

Bob Frazier, Captain
Eric Godes
Peter Goodall
Phil McComb
Nick O'Hara
Richard Schafer

**FINAL OPEN 4.5 INDIVIDUAL
RANKINGS**

- 1 Timothy Wakeling
 - 2 Richard B. Schafer
 - 3 Brian Roberts
 - 4 Duncan Walker
 - 5 John Gillooly
 - 6 David Driscoll
 - 7 Peter Manuelian
 - 8 Sandy Legovich
 - 9 Wendy Ansdell
 - 10 Tyler Hill
 - 11 Ric C. Calvillo, Jr
 - 12 Jed Cohen
 - 13 Peter R. Ceuppens
 - 14 Mark Geel
-

OPEN C-LEAGUE ROUNDUP

In the winter issue of the newsletter, your fearless *MSRA News* editor predicted that the **Harvard Club**—despite then languishing in ninth place, on the outside of the playoff picture—would rise through the ranks to challenge undefeated **Concord-Action** for the league

title. Well, your fearless editor was wrong: the Harvard Club boys didn't just challenge the defending champs from Concord—they beat them.

Significantly augmented by the arrival of **Mike Weinbach**, **Jay Bradner**, and **Toby Lester**, the Harvard Club climbed out the C-league cellar to finish the regular season in sixth place. Concord-Acton, meanwhile, led by its potent top three of **Tim Arnold**, **Rob Beede**, and **Chris Yates**, had laid waste to the competition during the regular season, finishing with a record of 15-0, and losing only seven individual matches out of seventy-five for an astonishing .907 winning percentage.

But opponents seemed to raise their games against Concord during the playoffs, which found itself uncharacteristically challenged. In the quarters, Concord had to squeeze out a 2-2 victory on the strength of games over 8th-seeded **Healthpoint 2**. 4th-seeded **Cambridge Racquet** also won on strength of games over 5th seeded **Longfellow**. The seventh-seeded **Tennis & Racquet** club upset number second-seated **Boston Athletic Club** 3-1. And the sixth-seeded Harvard Club squad avenged a decisive regular season loss, upsetting third-seeded **Union Boat Club** 4-0.

Concord had an easier time in the semis, beating Cambridge Racquet 3-1. Meanwhile the Harvard Club, competing without key players, relied on the strength of its reserves to eke out a 2-2 victory (on games) over the T&R (who were also missing players) that came down to **Mark Israel's** clutch victory over **Shawn Herlihy**.

In the final the Harvard Club stunned the reigning champs. Bradner, Weinbach, and Lester all played the matches of their lives: Bradner and Weinbach beat Arnold and Beede respectively,

while Lester fell in a closely contested battle to Yates. Israel had an easier time of it at four, giving the Harvard Club a 3-1 victory and the championship.

OPEN 3.5 TEAM CHAMPIONS

HARVARD CLUB

Linton Moulding, Captain
Jay Bradner
Mark Israel
Toby Lester
Fraser Walsh
Peter Wechsler
Mike Weinbach

FINAL OPEN 3.5 INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

1. Eric Sanders
2. David Scali
3. Jay Bradner
4. Rob Beede
5. Tim Arnold
6. Brian Hicks
7. Don Marcus
8. Mike Weinbach
9. Chris Yates
10. Spencer Macalester
11. Tom Hill
12. Ethan Ladd
13. Jerry Stonehouse
14. Greg Semprucci

OPEN D-LEAGUE ROUNDUP

As it had in the B & C divisions, **Concord-Acton's** D-team led the table for most of the regular season, only to fall in the finals. The championship match pitted Concord against **Union Boat Club**. The matches at the number one and two slots featured four of the league's top five players: UBC's **Steve Glick** and **Erik Vigsnes** playing against Concord's **Christophe Dupupet** and **Simon Graham**.

Unsurprisingly, given that Glick and Vigsnes finished first and second in the individual rankings while Dupupet and Graham finished fourth and fifth, UBC

prevailed in those matches, as well as in the others (which featured two other top ten players, the UBC's **Kimo Griggs** and Concord's **Richard Thompson**), to take the championship with a convincing 4-0 victory.

OPEN 2.5 TEAM CHAMPIONS UNION BOAT CLUB

Tim O'Brien, Co-Captain
Erik Vignes, Co-Captain
Steven Glick
Kimo Griggs
Richard Pierce

FINAL OPEN 2.5 INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

1. Steven Glick
2. Erik Vigsnes
3. Robert Rinaldi
4. Christophe Dupupet
5. Simon Graham
6. Edward Y. Lee
7. Kimo Griggs
8. Tom Caughey
9. Ben Bigelow
10. Richard Thomson

50+ ROUNDUP

OPEN 50+

BOSTON RACQUET CLUB

Mike MacDonald, Captain
Ned Brewer
Jack Dane
Malcolm Davidson
Digger Donahue
John Grummon
Richard Lubin
Tom Mellor
Gene O'Malley
Kent Parrot
Norm Smith

FINAL 50+ LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

1. Tom Quinn
2. Jay Healy
3. Daniel Hogan
4. Tom Mellor
5. Roy McCauley ■

2002 Doubles Roundup

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Canadian National Championships were held over the weekend of March 1-3 in Toronto. Seven MSRA players journeyed north to participate in the various age groups and Open. **Jessie Chai** and partner Karen Jerome from Hamilton, Ontario, successfully defended their Women's Open title with a four game victory over a Toronto team. This victory marks the third consecutive year they've won the title.

Malcolm Davidson and new partner **Fran Donlan** won their first round in the 50's, then lost to the fourth seeded team of Downer & Nederpel in a tight four game match. **Tom Poor** and **Lenny Bernheimer** won the 55's title over David Hetherington & Mike Manley, a team they've played often. This title was also their third consecutive victory in this division. Lenny turned 60 in October and is graciously playing down a division until Tom matures to 60 in July, 2003.

Lee Spelke, now an old hand at these tournaments, paired with San Francisco's Ivan Glover and ran into the second seed, Canadians Bishop & Quarles, in the quarterfinals. That loss cleared the way for some spirited revelry the rest of the weekend. In the 70's, **Joel Kozol** returned without usual partner **Don Boyko** (who was sunning himself in Florida), and teamed with Montreal's Scott Fraser. In round robin play, they finished fourth.

THE U.S. NATIONALS

Three weeks later, New York City hosted the U.S. National Championships for the first time since 1979.

Jessie Chai and Karen Jerome reached the finals of the Women's Open to meet many-time champions Demer Holleran and Alicia McConnell, a coach at the Olympic Training Site in Colorado Springs. Demer's deft touch and Alicia's scrambling were once again decisive in the three game match. In the 55's, **Tom Poor** and **Lenny Bernheimer** once again faced Mike Manley, this time with new partner Joe Fitzpatrick of Baltimore. This one went back and forth to 12-all in the fifth when after two hours, the Boston boys finally took the last three points to win the title for the third year in a row.

Malcolm Davidson and **Fran Donlan** had the narrowest of escapes in the 50's in the first round against University Club mates **Chipp Adams** & **Peter Gordon**. Ironically, they had to travel all the way to

New York to play, and they survived three match points in the fifth to advance. In the quarters, they had a great win in three over third seeded Sandy Martin & Charlie Fenwick of Baltimore. Their luck then ran out against the second seeds, Canadians Harding & McDonough.

Sandy Tierney & **Derrick Niederman**, the defending 45's World Champions, met Peter Briggs & Peer Pederson of Rye, NY in the finals. Both teams had emerged undefeated in round robin play. In another grinder, they went to the fifth where Briggs-Pederson ran eight straight points from 8-9 to claim the title.

In the 65's, **Hank Shaw** & **Lee Spelke** finished fourth in their difficult round robin, playing in a group featuring two national championship teams. **Joel Kozol** & **Don Boyko**, reunited to defend their 70's crown won last year in Portland, met the team they had beaten, Nisenboim & Brown from Toronto. Unfortunately, the tables were turned as a close first game loss became a landslide in three.

—by Tom Poor

THE WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The World Doubles Championships began as an annual tournament for professionals and amateurs, alternating between hardball doubles in North America and softball doubles in Asia or Europe. Toronto held the first world hardball doubles championships in 1994, but the next year passed without a world softball event. Pro tour players **Sarah Fitzgerald**, **Liz Irving**, and **Jonathon Power** participated in earlier hardball versions, but the top softball players have not played since 1996, and the world championships have evolved into a North American biennial event. This year's event, held April 22-28 in Toronto, drew over 220 teams with 14 players from Boston.

The World Doubles tournament began as a relaxed and intimate affair with Mixed events Monday through Wednesday. **Molly Downer** & **Malcolm Davidson** played in the inaugural 50's event. Despite philosophical differences and social distractions, the duo won the championship without losing a game. **Jessie Chai** & **Gary Waite** successfully defended their Open title, though they needed five games to overcome Leslie Freeman and Viktor Berg, both from Toronto.

Meanwhile, **Tom Poor** participated in a Pro-Am event, which generated more prize money for the

2002 Doubles Roundup

Men's Open tournament. Poor paired with Scott Dulmage and lost in the finals to a young hard-hitting Canadian amateur and Mike Pirnak.

On Thursday, the pace of the event became more frenetic as hordes of players arrived to play in nine men's and four women's draws. **Lee Spelke** & Hank Shaw had the toughest draw since they had to face the #4 seed in the first round of the 65's. Though they lost early, they ended up winning the consolation, their best showing in a major tournament to date. **Joel Kozol**, stranded without past World Champion **Don Boyko**, recruited Yusuf Khan from Seattle and was seeded second in the 70's. They ran into Vancouver's Neil Desaulniers and former Canadian Davis Cup member Lorne Main in the semi-finals, going down in three close games.

The 50's tournament was the deepest and the largest, riddled with what Malcolm Davidson described as "land mines." On Friday night in the quarterfinals, Davidson & **Fran Donlan** encountered #4 seeds John Boynton & Tim Griffin, lanky veterans from Toronto. Davidson & Donlan played aimlessly the first two games, losing at 7 and 10. At the break **Derrick Niederman** suggested to "hit over Boynton and under Griffin." The Boston duo executed this simple strategy and won the third game at 10. The fourth game went to a tiebreaker with one controversial referee reversal of a call, and the Canadians won the fourth game 18-16 to take the match.

The 55's top seeded pair of Poor & **Len Bernheimer** had a rockier road than usual to the finals. Bernheimer had injured his back earlier in the week, and a physical therapist had counseled him to default. Bernheimer of course did not heed the advice, and the Boston contingent, sworn to secrecy, did not utter a word about the injury to Poor. On Saturday morning the duo struggled mightily in their quarterfinal, finally winning at 14, 17-18, 6, 9. They then faced Cass Quinn & Molson Robertson in the Saturday afternoon semifinal. Quinn & Robertson had easily upset #4 seed **Jim Young** of the Harvard Club and Dick Rice of Rochester earlier in the day. Quinn accurately shot from all areas of the court, particularly the back wall, carving the ball into the corners. Robertson repeatedly drilled crosscourt nicks and reverse corners. The unseeded team had two match points in the fourth game, but Poor hit a great re-reverse corner to erase the first one. Quinn then received a floater and inexplicably tinned the ball with both Boston players out of position. Poor

& Bernheimer won the fifth with the final score 17-18, 18-17, (8), 18-17, 12. On Sunday familiar rivals Dave Hetherington & Mike Manley did not put up much resistance, and the Boston team successfully defended its title.

The top seeds in the 45's, defending champions **Sandy Tierney** & Niederman cruised to the finals without loss of a game despite Niederman's sore toe. They met Graeme Duff & Jay Gillespie of Toronto in the finals, a team they had never beaten. Duff, a lefty left-waller, hit low flat shots for winners but committed racquet errors under pressure. Gillespie was consistent and difficult to displace from the red line. The Boston team decided to play Duff, and the outcome of the match depended on the left-wallers. Each game was close and tense. In the fourth game Tierney hit an irretrievable inside-out three-wall nick and a patented reverse corner set up by a deft Niederman lob to end the match and win the championship.

John Nimick, teaming with Clive Caldwell, quietly and efficiently decimated the 40's draw and successfully defended his title. **Jamie Fagan**, combining business with squash, made a cameo appearance in the 40's with a local Toronto player.

Molly Downer teamed with Sara Luther, a hardball legend from Denver, in the Women's 45+ tournament. The duo encountered trouble in the semifinals which featured inconsistent contact with the ball and shallow serving. Downer & Luther survived, however, winning the fifth game at 12. In the finals against #1 seeds and defending champions Barbara Cooper & Lolly Gillen, Downer & Luther won the first two games handily at 8 and 10. They then committed several racquet errors in the third and lost that game at 6. Downer & Luther went up 9-6 in the fourth, but then a momentum shift occurred with the Canadians winning that game 17-14 and the fifth game at 10.

The top two seeds in the Women's Open advanced with relative ease to the finals. Defending champions Karen Jerome and Jesse Chai had never beaten the top-seeded team of Demer Holleran & Alicia McConnell. Jerome played spiritedly, but Chai was flat, perhaps fatigued from the Mixed final. Jerome & Chai had inconsistent good patches of play and lost 17-16, 6, 11.

More than 600 people attended the Saturday night black tie Mardi Gras-themed gala in the curling rink of the Toronto Cricket, Curling and Skating Club. The University Club of Boston came away

with eight World Champions, one more than in 2000 and seven more than in 1998. With the addition of two more doubles courts to Massachusetts, in Turner Hill Estates in Ipswich, the future looks bright for the game in Boston.

—by Jesse Chai

MASSACHUSETTS STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year's edition of "The States" had three themes: vindication, gerrymandering, and absenteeism. Two former championship teams avenged their losses from last year. In addition, some long-term relationships ended and some new partnerships becoming dominant. And, unfortunately, two teams defaulted on the night of the finals due to unavoidable business commitments.

The top two seeds in the 50's reached the final without mishap. Defending champions and top seeds **Malcolm Davidson & Fran Donlan** defeated **Ed Serues & Dick Chute** in straight games in one semifinal; second-seeded **Tom Poor & Len Bernheimer** needed four games to overcome **Chipp Adams & Peter Gordon** in the other. The second seeds were definite underdogs going into the finals since Donlan had steadily improved during the year by playing in



State 50+: Lenny Bernheimer and Tom Poor, champions and Malcolm Davidson and Fran Dolan, finalists.

national tournaments, and Bernheimer's back injury restricted his movement. Davidson & Donlan easily won the first game at 9, but Poor dug in during the second game, and Lenny hit some inspired winners.

Davidson helped with five unforced errors, unusual for him. Even though the #2 seeds gave away a 14-12 lead in the second with errors, they won that game 15-14 with a misdirected Poor reverse corner that hit the front wall then the right side wall nick. Donlan produced a flurry of errors in the third game leading to the loss of that game at 7. Poor & Bernheimer then built 9-4 and 12-9 leads in the fourth, only to find themselves down 12-13. Bernheimer hit an uncharacteristic reverse corner off the serve to tie the game, triggering a set-5 tiebreaker which featured excellent retrievals and heated exchanges. At 4-all, an overanxious Donlan tinned a



Men's State A Division: Greg Zaff and Derrick Niederman, finalists, with Jamie Fagan and Doug Lifford, Champions.

crosscourt attempt to give the match to Poor and Bernheimer.

The A final predictably featured the same teams as the previous two seasons: defending champions and top seeds **Greg Zaff & Derrick Niederman** and the second-seeded **Doug Lifford & Jamie Fagan**. However, the middle of the draw yielded surprises. **Sandy Tierney & Patrick Malloy** upset perennial semifinalists **John Nimick & Bernheimer** in four games in one quarterfinal and then took top seeds Zaff & Niedermeyer to two tiebreakers before losing in three games. In another quarterfinal match, Davidson paired with upcoming ISDA star **Preston Quick** but lost to **Chris Spahr & Ming Tsai** in five unpredictable games. Spahr and Tsai then lost to Lifford & Fagan in three straight games in the semifinals. This year's final was a reversal of last year's result. Lifford kept his opponents deep with his power. Niederman made uncharacteristic errors throughout the match,



• 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 51611
Boston,MA 02205-1611

Checks made payable to:MSRA

2002 Doubles Roundup *continued*

and Zaff had little feel for the ball. Meanwhile, Fagan exhibited so much speed, power, and touch that he astounded his friends, some of whom were wealthy from practicing against him. The win (11, 9, 18-17) gave Fagan & Lifford their fifth state title.

Two-time defending 60's champions **Gerry Fineberg & Joel Kozol** underwent a high-profile divorce, either from fear of competition from



State 60+: Lenny Bernheimer and Jerry Fineberg, finalists and Joel Kozol and Jim Young, champions.

younger newly eligible teams or the desire to pick up "trophy" partners. Fineberg had no difficulty recruiting Bernheimer, his partner in 1997 when he won the State 50's. Kozol went with **Jim Young**, a 2000 World Doubles 50's finalist. In the semifinals Fineberg & Bernheimer needed one tiebreaker and four games to defeat **Lee Spelke & Hank Shaw** whereas Young & Kozol defeated **Don Boyko & Dave Murphy** in three straight games. The final featured wily shots as well as errors. Fineberg also crash-tested the glass back wall on numerous occasions. In a test of attrition, Kozol outlasted his former partner 6, 14-18, (11), 12, and 12.

The Mixed Championship featured two new top teams in #3 seeds **Mary McKee & Lifford** and #4 Nimick & former Lifford partner **Annette Andruss**. Defending champions and #1 seeds **Molly Downer & Zaff** had a see-saw match with Nimick & Andruss in one semifinal but won in five games. Meanwhile McKee & Lifford needed only four games to defeat the unusually flat

#2 seeds **Jessie Chai & Tierney**. Chai's semifinal loss was her second since 1988 and likely heralded the twilight of her career. After their A match Lifford and Zaff received little time to recover for the Mixed final though Lifford was able to rush outside for his usual pregame ritual. Both McKee and Downer played steadily against each other. McKee's preferred shot was the low rail, and Downer's was the reverse corner. Zaff inflicted damage only occasionally, and Lifford proved to be too overwhelming as his team defeated the #1 seeds 10, (13), 12, and 9.

For the first time ever the top four seeds in the B draw reached the semifinals with #1 **Rob Dewees & Joe Cortes** and #2 **Chris O'Brien & Jamie Childs** experiencing little difficulty. #2 **Gerry Kirschner & Jeff Rodman** and #4 **Errin Siagel & Scott Beebe**, on the other hand, survived five-game scares in the quarterfinals from **Kevin Brennan & Mat Sibble** and **Drew**

Hurley & Downer, respectively. Both of the top two seeds needed four games to win their semifinal matches, but a finals match never materialized because of O'Brien's sudden business commitments



State Mixed: Greg Zaff and Molly Downer, finalists, and Mary McKee and Doug Lifford, State Doubles Champions

in California. Thus, Dewees & Cortes became champions by default. The win was Cortes's first state doubles title and Dewees's first since he claimed a B title in 1977 with **Sandy Bradbury**.

2002 Doubles Roundup *continued*

Predicting the winner of the C draw is well nigh impossible. The play is inconsistent, and unusual (sometimes called "lucky") shots can determine



State B champions: Rob Dewees and Joe Cortes, champions.

matches. Top seeds **Jay Hirshberg** & **Adams Simms** were the strong favorites to win the C's, having won in 2000 and lost in the finals in 2001. However, the rest of the pack appears to be catching up and may be even surpassing them. The #1 seeds were fortunate to beat the distracted team of **Jim Milton** (softball) & **Bob Harkins** (baby) in five. They then lost to 1998 champions **Bob Frazier** & **Phil McComb** in five lopsided games in one semifinal. In the other half **Jim Morgan** & **Tom Takesian**, a hastily assembled team, reached the final but constantly teetered on the edge of defeat. They barely defeated **Meredith Johnson** & **Bry Roskoz**, 16-14, (13), 17-16, 18-14, in the first round and eked out a win over #2 seeds **Dave Newton** & **Ed Madden**, (9), 13,12, 14-16, 13 in the quarterfinals. Their semifinal win over Fineberg & **Ali Fahr** was more routine, going the minimum number of games but requiring two tiebreakers. Frazier & McComb never played Morgan & Takesian because McComb also had a

business meeting in California.

The MSRA State Doubles Championships finals mark the official end of doubles season for 2002. Many thanks go to **Chris Spahr**, **Ed Serues**, **John Nimick**, and the tournament committee for refereeing and line judging. They received more than their usual share of anguished facial expressions from the players.

And next year? Watch for Malloy, Quick, Neal Vohr, or even Gary Waite to upset the Zaff & Niederman vs. Lifford & Fagan balance. Look for Dewees & Cortes and O'Brien & Childs to dominate the B's except if Scott Hartz returns to the fold. Do not try to predict the outcome of the C's. Expect McKee & Lifford to repeat unless Chai becomes more motivated. In the 50's Davidson & Donlan will be ready for the aging and ailing Poor & Bernheimer. And maybe Fineberg (with Bernheimer) will start training this summer for



State C champions: Jim Klorgan and Tom Takesian

his rematch against Young & Kozol in the 60's. ■

—by Jessie Chai

MSRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2002-2003

PRESIDENT

Jeanne Blasberg
617-557-4118 H
jblasberg@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT/MEN'S LEAGUE COORDINATOR

Carl Cummings
617-542-5305 W
781-821-5547 H
617-338-6489 F
carlcummings@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Sam Magruder
617-443-9444
magruder@rcn.com

SECRETARY

Simon Graham
978-461-7142
simon.graham@stratus.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Linda Watts
617-578-3064 W
781-397-8899 H
781-397-8899 F
lwatts@nefn.com

WOMEN'S LEAGUE COORDINATOR

Bry Roskoz
617-572-2811 W
617-424-9131 H
bry.roskoz@bain.com

MEN'S TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

Fran Donlan
617-217-6127 W
781-749-3350 H
617-217-6200 F
fran.donlan@morganstanley.com

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR

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

AT LARGE-JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

Mike Loucks
617-748-3185 W
617-367-8240 H
mkloucks@earthlink.net

AT LARGE-RULES AND REFEREES

Wendy Ansdell
978-266-9665 H
wendyansdell@mindspring.com

AT LARGE-RULES AND REFEREES

Nat Lovell
617-262-9040 H
nwlovell@yahoo.com

AT LARGE- INVESTMENTS/FINANCE

Tom Poor
781-826-2792 H
781-826-2792 F
tpoor43@aol.com

AT LARGE- INVESTMENTS/FINANCE

Lenny Bernheimer
781-237-2210 H
781-431-7261 F
lab1013@aol.com

AT LARGE-DEVELOPMENT

Michael McDonald
617-423-1599 W
617-527-7688 H
bannockburn@bigplanet.com

AT LARGE-WEB SITE

Paul Chastanet
978-264-2676 W
781-444-0904 H
pchastan@haartz.com

AT LARGE-WEB SITE

Ric Calvillo
781-229-2324 W
617-227-7455
ric@calvillo.com

AT LARGE-NEWSLETTER

Scott Stossel
617-570-8030 W
617-441-5048 H
stossel@attbi.com
MSRANews@aol.com

AT LARGE-YEARBOOK

Eric Godes
617-369-2300 W
egodes@kobren.com

AT LARGE

Sarah Lemaire
11 Mallard Road
Acton, MA 01720-2822
978-635-9081 H
shl@theworld.com.

AT LARGE-COLLEGE LIAISON

Doug Eng
617-627-5196 W
617 549-0217 M
dougeng@hotmail.com

AT LARGE-PRO LIAISON

Chris Spahr
Boston, MA 02116
617-266-3233 W
uclubsquash@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Janice Troy
50 Hemenway Dr.
Canton, MA 02021
781-821-5547 H
janmtroy@aol.com

PLEASE NOTE that due to changes at the South Station post office, the MSRA P.O. Box number is changing from P.O. Box 1611 to PO Box 51611. Thus the mailing address for the MSRA is now:

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