

MSRANews

MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am a devoted squash player but not a particularly good one. I first played a few games in 1976, but didn't play again until 1988, when I began playing regularly (some might say obsessively). I began, like most of us, as a D player (2.5 in this digital age) and by applying myself diligently to the game, I have managed, for the most part, not to drop below that. Fifteen years on and notwithstanding all evidence to the contrary, I continue to believe that I'm about to break through to a higher level. I've tried different racquets, grips, shoes, strings, goggles. . . I just can't seem to pinpoint the problem. If losing builds character, I should be eligible for sainthood soon.

Why continue to suffer the frustration of such limited success? I have a theory that, in squash, the flame of eternal hope is fueled by burning short-term memory, so that players like me can suffer losses and keep coming back for more. The better explanation, of course, is that it's just a great game, not to mention a good source of exercise that (unlike running, in my experience) doesn't begin with the thought, "When will this be over?"

The MSRA is an association of more or less like-minded people (albeit better players, for the most part). While the attraction of the game is difficult to convey to most non-players (although perhaps it's my delivery), when I play in an MSRA league or tournament or attend an MSRA event, I know I'll meet people who share my enthusiasm and who won't start backing away slowly when I express it. It's an intangible but important benefit of the MSRA that perhaps we should promote more ("You're not nuts. Okay, maybe you are but at least you're not alone.") Plus, membership will improve your game. . . eventually.

Carl Cummings
MSRA President

Boston A Team Takes Howe Cup

The 2003 Howe Cup took place in Seattle over the weekend of October 24–26. It was a weekend of both triumph and frustration. The MSRA-sponsored Boston A team won the Howe Cup they so narrowly lost in 2002, but with only one other A team entered, they lacked the competitive matches that would have made it worth traveling the 3000 miles. In addition, some of the amenities from previous Howe Cups were lacking from this year's event. In fact, many participants missed the opening-night cocktail party or Saturday night banquet because they were on court playing matches.

The Seattle Athletic Club Downtown hosted all the 2003 Howe Cup matches. Its location in the heart of downtown Seattle was ideal, just north of the historic Pike Place Market, overlooking Puget Sound, and with a terrific view of Mt. Rainier. This Howe Cup featured 23 teams, including six teams that were entered in a D flight, which was a great opportunity for Seattle-area women to get a taste of national tournament play.

The MSRA sponsored two teams—the A team, captained by Jeannie Blasberg, and a C team captained by Dominique Farinaux-Dumas. Both teams worked hard in the weeks leading up to the Howe Cup, with challenge matches and C team weekly practices at Harvard's Murr Center. MSRA member Gretchen Whiting trained with the C team and traveled to Seattle and played #2 for the Portland team, whose members welcomed her warmly.

Due to the lack of A team competition, the tournament chairs, Shabana and Ayub Khan, decided to create two A/B round robin pools. While this gave the B players a chance to match up against A-level players, it meant that the two A teams—Boston and Southeast—played three matches without any meaningful competition.

Both A teams won their respective pools in the A/B division and then lined up for the A team championship Saturday afternoon. Captain and Harvard Club member Jeannie Blasberg led off with an easy win over Southeast's Laurie Keenan, and then Concord-Acton's Sue Rafuse gave the large and enthusiastic crowd a thrill with her come-from-behind victory over Debbie Brown. Sue fell behind 0-2, but used her superior fitness to win a victory that impressed even Palmer Page, the newly appointed USSRA CEO.

In the next two matches, SquashBusters' Orla O'Doherty and Concord-Acton pro Wendy Ansdell both lost in three games, leaving the match score at 2-2. It came down to Wellesley College coach Shona Kerr and Southeast's Sue Lawrence, both tough

(continued on page 2)



The Boston A team received their Howe Cup awards from Palmer Page, USSRA CEO: L-R: Sue Rafuse (with her daughter, Sarah Kelly), Wendy Ansdell, Orla O'Doherty, Jeannie Blasberg, Palmer Page, Shona Kerr

(continued from page 1)

competitors. Shona took a 2-0 lead, but Sue rallied to win the third game 9-7. The momentum in the fourth game went back and forth, until Shona stepped up to clinch the match and the Howe Cup for Boston, winning the fourth game 9-6, thrilling the packed gallery and delighting her teammates. Later that evening during the Saturday banquet, Palmer Page awarded the A team their cups, giving them high praise for the level of play he observed that afternoon.

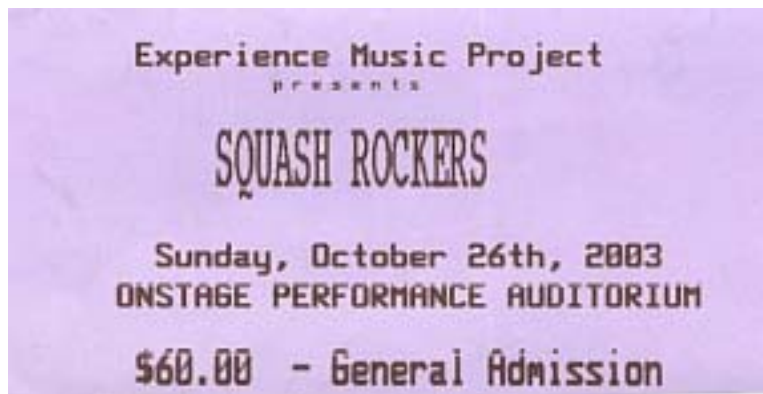


The Howe Cup Boston C Team: L-R: Capt. Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, Maria Mayorga, Sarah Lemaire, Dodie Woodbridge, Bernadette Dixon

Boston's C team played some very tough contests in their round robin matches. Placed in a pool with three other C teams, two from Seattle and one from Portland, they dropped their first contest to a team from Pro Club of Seattle, 1-4. But they rallied to win their second contest decisively 4-1 over the team from nearby Portland (a team that included Boston's Gretchen Whiting). Maria Mayorga, playing at #3 pulled out a hard-fought victory, defeating Portland's Joan Ahlberg. Bernadette Dixon played #4 and easily beat Ann Johnson, heading off a strong challenge in the third game. The third team match, against yet another Seattle team, was much closer. While Boston lost 2-3, captain Dominique Farinaux-Dumas pulled out a terrific come-from-behind victory, putting into play some helpful hints from A team stalwart Orla O'Doherty.

Originally, the C team was told they were not going to play a match on Sunday, the last day of the tournament. After some prodding by Dominique, Ayub agreed to arrange some playoff matches for the C teams, who were eager to go up against teams in the other pools.

Having finished third in their pool, Boston's C team played the #2 team from the other pool, another team from Seattle. Boston's #5 Sarah Lemaire dropped her first match of the Howe Cup, losing 2-3 to hard-hitting Brandy Conforth, and Bernadette Dixon won her match by default. Maria Mayorga won a very close match against Colleen Miller, but then Dominique lost to a very strong #2 from Seattle, Julie Ryan. The penultimate match of the Howe Cup (everyone had left the SAC by then), it came down to the two #1 players. Dodie Woodbridge, Boston's #1, played her best squash of the tournament in a very competitive match against Leslie Seman, where the momentum swung back and forth. In the end, Dodie toughed it out to win her first match of the Howe Cup in five games, clinching the win for Boston's C team.



In what little time was left before the red-eye flights back to the East Coast, the Boston team members explored what was open in Seattle on Sunday afternoon. Jeannie Blasberg and Orla O'Doherty visited the Experience Music Project, a multi-media music museum conceived by Microsoft founder Paul Allen and opened to the public in June, 2000. The multi-talented Ms. Blasberg and Ms. O'Doherty tried their hand at rock music stardom, performing the rock classic "Wild Thing" as part of a band called "Squash Rockers" to an audience of thousands. Be sure to catch them the next time they perform in your town—if you can afford the price of a ticket!

Many thanks to the MSRA for sponsoring both teams. Next year's Howe Cup will be played in New York. The A team is looking forward to defending their title, and the C team will be looking forward to improving on this year's showing.

Reminders:

Visit the MSRA website to sign up for state tournaments and renew your membership!

SquashBusters News

SquashBusters Leave a Mark at CASC Juniors!

For the first time in the history of the program, a SquashBusters student made it to the final of a main draw in a junior tournament. Shanita Williams, a freshman at Fenway High School, charged her way through three other U17 girls and faced #1 seed, Krissy Rubin of the University Club, in the final on Sunday. While the match was somewhat one-sided for Krissy, Shanita maintained great poise and composure, not allowing the champion to leave the court without a tough workout. Well done Shanita for paving the way for future finalists among the SquashBusters gang!

Other results included Vicky Flamenco of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, who reached the GU17 consolation final. Steven Cotter and Justin Austin were winners of the consolation plate and consolation final respectively. Sydney Smith proved that she's a player to be reckoned with by coming in third place in the GU15! Mikhail Darlington did extremely well, coming in 5th place in his age group, while Pedro and Patrick battled it out for the 7th and 8th positions. Pedro snuck through a very friendly match and won in three games.

Not only was the squash competitive, but the foosball table also proved to be a hit this weekend. In between match play and softball doubles (the kids' new favorite game!) was the sound of laughter and noise from the foosball table. It was the central meeting point for all players and a great social activity. It also happened to be very close to the food table, which was always generously flowing with subs, pizza, and bagels.

A big thank-you goes to Paul and Wendy Ansdell for hosting this event and providing the SquashBusters students with a tremendous opportunity to compete among other local junior players.



SquashBusters' Juanita Williams receives her runner-up prizes from Paul Ansdell, head pro at Concord-Acton.

Fall 2003 Community Service Projects Report

SquashBusters' high school team has been taking action in the community this year in many ways. On Saturday, October 18, all 25 high school students packed into vans and cars and traveled to Needham to help run the Ellie Bloom Special Olympics, an annual athletic event organized by the Charles River Association for Retarded Citizens. Over the years, the Ellie Bloom Olympics has been one of the most rewarding projects in SquashBusters' history, and this year was no exception. Serving as "athlete buddies," SquashBusters students were paired with Special Olympians to help them face the athletic challenges put before them. SquashBusters also helped with the awards ceremony, and in general, brought tons of positive energy to the day's events.

On Saturday, November 1, two weeks later, half of the SquashBusters high school team woke up bright and early to share their boundless energy with the residents of Mount Pleasant Home, a residential community for senior citizens in Jamaica Plain. Drawing from their experiences in SquashBusters' daily community service-learning lessons, SquashBusters students helped the seniors create personal identity "road maps" artistically depicting the important people, places, and events of their lives. Through mutual interviews and stimulating conversation, the kids and the seniors came to know each other as individuals by the end of the three-hour session. They shared lunch and played bingo, and dreaded saying goodbye when it was all over. The rest of the team headed out to Mount Pleasant Home in December to spread some holiday cheer.

Thanks to the Charles River ARC and Mount Pleasant Home for their help coordinating these events.



SquashBusters student Marcilio Franklin visits with his friend Charlotte at the Mount Pleasant Home. Charlotte is showing off her "road map."

Junior News

MSRA Junior Committee Mid-Season Report

by Tom Poor & Jeannie Blasberg, Co-chairs, MSRA Junior Committee

A full slate of activities has kept MSRA juniors in constant motion for the first half of the 2003–2004 squash season. The schedule promises more of the same for the second half of the year. This schedule, combined with school and club teams, clinics, and other activities means that juniors of all abilities have the chance to play competitively and for fun.

Tournaments Sponsored by the MSRA Junior Committee

- a) Holiday Juniors – December 26–28. The tournament at the University Club was very successful, with 91 entries, including 11 from England.
- b) Mass Junior Open – January 9–11. This event is customarily our largest tournament. 145 entries played this year at the Murr Center, with competitors from as far away as the Barbados and Washington State. Large school and SquashBusters contingents attended as well.
- c) Mass Junior Closed – March 5-7. We are planning for the first time to hold this event at the new SquashBusters Center at Northeastern. This tournament is open to all who join the MSRA, regardless of residence. We expect a draw of nearly 100 juniors.

Junior Leagues

The Junior League runs on several Sunday afternoons at the Murr Center at Harvard. The League is designed for players on various club and other teams to play one another in friendly, low-key matches. On any given Sunday, 25–35 juniors will participate.

Exhibition

On Saturday, November 1, 2003, five-time world champion, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, put on an exhibition for MSRA juniors at the Harvard Club. After an entertaining three-game match with Harvard Club Pro and fellow Aussie, Sharon Bradey, Sarah played a game with each of the juniors present. Sarah's play and advice gave our juniors valuable exposure to world class squash.

Squads (more info below)

The Squads is organized by Chris Spahr, professional at the University Club. The juniors participating in this program are intent on improving their play so as to be competitive in local and national competitions. These intensive practices are held once or twice a month at Milton and at Harvard. 11 of the Squads members went to the USSRA Junior Olympics tournament at Princeton in early December; more are planning to play the Junior Nationals at Harvard during the weekend of March 12–14.

Web Page

The MSRA juniors web page is under active development and includes tournament writeups and pictures from tournaments and exhibitions. We keep pushing for more and fresh content. Suggestions for the junior web site have included

- Tips on such things as conditioning, nutrition, hydration, stretching, etc.
- An "Ask the Pros" column where juniors could e-mail in questions to be answered ongoingly
- Reviews of equipment
- Notices of camps or clinics; seminars on rules and refereeing; demonstrations by pros.

We also want to liven up the format, which is pretty dry at present.

USSRA Representation

Gary Rubin is our delegate to the USSRA Junior Committee. Subjects under active discussion include the replacement of the juniors' member of the USSRA staff and a need to support and encourage inner city youth programs following the great success of SquashBusters. The MSRA is seen as leading the way on junior programs and is perhaps the only association running junior tournaments instead of professionals in other areas of the country. Finally, a group is concentrating on technology and making that more modern in ongoing junior activities.

Massachusetts Training Squads News

Chris Spahr, University Club Pro, Mass Squads Director

Massachusetts Training Squads is an elite junior squash initiative that invites the top qualified junior squash players to receive the highest level of coaching for five sessions during the squash season. Players use these training sessions to further their competitive experience and reach goals such as making the U.S. National Junior Tournament in March.

The selection process takes into account national and state rankings and player competency. A selection committee comprised of local club professionals and interscholastic coaches reviews the candidates and solidifies the final selections. The top four players in each age division receive automatic invitations to Squads. Any others are chosen on their strength by the Selection Committee. The Committee can select further candidates if space and qualifications are sufficient.

The Mass Squads have met three times this season at Milton. Many local pros have assisted: Mark Lewis, Jason Hicks, Jack Wyant, Dan Sharplin, and Briggs Johnson. The juniors from Squads at the Junior Olympics at Princeton in December played exceptionally well: Krissy Rubin, John Lingos-Webb, Amory Bennett, Casey and Cece Cortes, Laura Curren, Sarah and Becca Loucks, and Alex Heitzman.

We are holding the last two practices at Harvard to get court familiarity before the National Juniors being held there in March.

Junior News

Life as a New Junior Squash Player

by Adam Vartikar

Hey. My name is Adam Vartikar, and I am a new squash player. I was a tennis player until about eight months ago, and although I was playing at a pretty competitive level, it never seemed to fit my personality. Tennis was too slow and required so much patience on the court to improve; it seemed to me that I was always struggling to stay in the game with my opponents. I was never able to play at my potential, and to bring my practice game with me to tournaments. And everybody was so tense at the tournaments that it took all the fun out of the game. Plus, it took forever to drive from my house in Brookline to any of the tennis clubs in the area. I didn't have the time for the lessons I needed to improve. I had reached a plateau.



One day last spring a friend from school invited me to go play squash with him at MIT. It was my first time playing, but with my seven years of tennis experience, I found that the sport was not hard to pick up. When I came off the court, I found that I had had more fun than I ever had when I played tennis. Afterwards, I searched for a place to take lessons and play. I started taking lessons at the Harvard Club with Sharon Bradey, as well as with Yamit Khan at the Boston Sports Club. It just clicked. From then on all I wanted to do was play squash. I stopped playing tennis and started taking as many squash lessons as soon as I could. When summer came I made a point of going to the courts for at least two hours a day, and signed up for every camp I could get to.

When fall came, I felt I was good enough to start playing in tournaments. The first tournament I played was in St. George's school in Newport. Not only was the site beautiful, but that tournament was by far the most fun one that I had ever played in. The kids there were having fun, playing with good attitudes, and respecting their opponents (the way any sport should be played). Best of all, I won many of my matches. I signed up for as many tournaments as I could fit in my schedule.

Now I play whenever I have time away from school; I spend most of my time at the Harvard Club. I can always get a court there, and there are always people to play with. Furthermore, all of the coaches are involved in the player's life. They sign us up for functions and clinics. These days, I take one to two lessons a week, and about two times a week I play on my own. I also take clinics at the Harvard Club on Mondays. My parents like the fact that I can get to the club by myself using public transportation. I just like the game. It fits me perfectly.

My Squash

by Amory Bennett

It all started for me around five years ago. I was in third grade, and for some reason the prospect of trying a new sport was anything but exciting. Maybe it was because I had some prejudice against vegetable-named sports, but I hated everything about the idea of *squash*.

My cousins all played squash, and now my mom wished the same for me. After much arguing on my part, I caved to my mother's stubbornness and tried the game. It was a sunny but cold Saturday when my cousin Mackie arrived at my house with racquets and goggles in hand. After giving my mother one final glare of defiance, my cousin and I set out for a local court. The dusty American court was the annex of a golf cart garage, a wooden room with chipped paint leaving dark spots in the once-white court, paint flakes scattering the cold floor. It was hardly a relief to my pessimistic anticipation. Almost right away Mackie reminded me of my goggles, and I put them on, but the only purpose they served was to blur my vision. Once I got a brief explanation of the rules and which lines meant what, Mackie began beating the ball against the wall with what looked like a mutated tennis swing. He then smacked it cross court to me, and with all my might I hit the ball right into the tin. I laughed, pretending to enjoy my cousin's idea of fun. After ten minutes or so, however, I found myself no longer pretending, but rather actually having fun. As my enthusiasm increased, Mackie showed me a shot that left me in awe. It was the first of many new dimensions I discovered within those four walls.

After revealing to my mom that I loved squash, and admitting to her she was right, we bought a racquet and I took my first lesson with Mackie at the Boston Sports Club in Allston. I took lessons first with a rock star named Charlie, and later with local pro Vevec (please excuse the spelling of this name). A group of kids from my school were gathered to play squash. We were a motley bunch, brought together once a week to learn the game of squash. At Boston Sports Club, I learned the basics, which proved to be a fine foundation for my future as a competitive player.

As the years progressed, much of the group abandoned squash. This is when I first met Chris Spahr and Jason Hicks of the University Club. From my first lesson, these two taught me that I had merely scratched the surface of squash. They taught me how to swing, how to move, and which shots to make and when. Out of my respect for them (and their skills on court) I learned that when they talk, they're not just trying to take up playing time...they're actually saying something worthwhile. Following this discovery, my game jumped to another level. We discussed game tactics as well as my stamina (or lack thereof).

All of these facets of playing squash were taken into account on court, drilling and training to get to the next level. As I grew as a squash player, so did my ambitions. I have never been fully satisfied with my squash game, and that has allowed me to not only improve, but more importantly, to *continue* improving.

Junior News

MSRA Juniors USSRA Rankings as of 01/09/04

From the USSRA website

Girls Under 19

Rank

13	Rebecca Loucks	Boston, MA
21	Elisabeth S. Berylson	Milton, MA
29	Samantha Bendetson	Wellesley, MA

Girls Under 17

Rank

27	Cece Cortes	Cambridge, MA
53	Krissy Rubin	Boston, MA

Girls Under 15

Rank

5	Cece Cortes	Cambridge, MA
21	Alli Rubin	Boston, MA
31	Maura Neal	Danvers, MA
44	Casey Cortes	Cambridge, MA

Girls Under 13

Rank

8	Sarah Loucks	Boston, MA
9	Casey Cortes	Cambridge, MA
30	Courtney B. Jones	Holden, MA
38	Corey Schafer	Natick, MA

Boys Under 19

Rank

6	Chessin Gertler	Weston, MA
7	Jonathan Barry	Weston, MA
22	John Lingos-Webb	Milton, MA
32	Elliot Beck	Concord, MA
37	Peter Kamm	Weston, MA
46	John McCarthy	Weston, MA
47	Andrew Michael Burmon	Milton, MA

Boys Under 17

Rank

4	John N. Fulham IV	Wellesley, MA
31	Mark Froot	Sudbury, MA
58	Christopher Vernick	West Roxbury, MA
90	Ben DiCamillo	Wellesley, MA

Boys Under 15

Rank

40	Eric Jones	Holden, MA
45	Charles Gertler	Weston, MA
77	Bill Glennon	New York, NY

Boys Under 13

Rank

47	Conor McClintock	Wellesley, MA
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Upcoming Junior Tournaments

National Boys High School Championships

February 14–15, 2004

Groton School

Boys High School Teams

Hope Prockop, 978-448-0257, hprockop@groton.edu

New England Interscholastics

February 20–22, 2004

Groton School

NEPSAC Teams

Hope Prockop, 978-448-0257, hprockop@groton.edu

Massachusetts Junior Closed (Grand Prix Event)

March 5–7, 2004

Harvard University Murr Center

Boys & Girls Under 19, 17, 15, 13, 11

Tom Poor, 781-826-2792, tpoor43@aol.com

2004 Junior Nationals

March 12–14, 2004

Harvard University Murr Center

Boys & Girls Under 19, 17, 15, 13, 11

USSRA, 610-667-4006, office@us-squash.org

Berkshire Junior Open (Not MSRA Sanctioned)

March 19–21, 2004

Williams College

Boys & Girls Under 19, 17, 15, 13, 11

Sarah Marks, sarah.h.marks@williams.edu

Bowdoin Open

March 26–28, 2004

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

Boys & Girls Under 19, 17, 15, 13, 11

Tomas Fortson, 207-725-3984, tfortson@bowdoin.edu

Future Stars Nationals

April 2–4, 2004

Location to be determined.

Boys & Girls Under 19, 17, 15, 13, 11

USSRA, 610-667-4006, office@us-squash.org

Junior News

Holiday Juniors Tournament

University Club, Boston, MA, December 26–28, 2003

The Holiday Juniors has been a Boston Christmas season tradition for many years. Originally held at the Harvard Club, it moved this year to the University Club and was organized under the auspices of the Massachusetts Junior Committee. 91 players entered 9 age division draws, coming from near and far: Atlanta, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and 11 visitors came from England.

Play began Friday afternoon, continued through Saturday, with a luncheon to revive everyone, and concluded on Sunday with the finals of the Main, Consolation, Plate and Consolation Plate draws. Each player was guaranteed three matches, which meant some serious squash for those who entered two divisions.

GU19: In a four-player round robin, Mary O'Toole from Short Hills, NJ won her three matches without the loss of a game. Caroline Lemoine was the finalist.

GU17: Samantha Buechner, a 14-year old from Newport, RI, captured this title in a four-game battle with top-seeded Caroline Henry. Samantha Smith edged Laura Curren, 10-8, in the fifth for 3rd; Boston's Krissy Rubin defeated Morgan Breck for the Plate and Katherine Bullard won the Consolation.

GU15: This one was relatively easy for Samantha Buechner, who cruised through three matches without losing a game, defeating Catherine Parkhurst of Greenwich in the final. Cecilia Haig took 3rd over Alli Rubin, and Kiera Murasko-Blank from Philadelphia won the Consolation.

GU13: Alli Rubin won a three-way round robin over Sarah Haig, playing her first tournament in the footsteps of her siblings Sam and Cecilia, and Megan Murray.

BU19: The British invasion turned serious as David Price rebounded from a two-game deficit in the final to defeat countryman Benjamin Harding. Although Price had advanced fairly easily through the 15-player draw, Harding escaped Cameron Henry in a five game semi-final. Cameron in turn squeaked out 3rd place in five over Haverford's Bucky Marshall. Anthony Bardaro took the Plate. Another Englishman, Barnaby Cartwright won the Consolation in five over Derek de Svastich, and Alex Ducas took home the Consolation Plate.

BU17: Stephen Preefer from the Heights Casino in Brooklyn considered two, then made a good decision in entering only one draw. After a grueling semi-final, four-game win over Bucky Marshall, he had an easier time with Lawrenceville teammate Matthew Marchisotto in the finals. Bucky took 3rd place over Atlanta's Charles Johnson. Britain's Simon Roach took the Plate, Boston's Chris Vernick the Consolation and Rick Munschauer from Buffalo won the Consolation Plate.

BU15: Simon Roach from England took this division with hardly a whimper, shutting out all his opponents, including Locust Valley's Harry Smith in the final. Jamie Wilson took 3rd over England's Elliot Nightingale. Boston's Barrett Takesian won the Plate, while Ewan Smith won the Consolation and Atlanta's Derek Rowley took the Consolation Plate.

BU13: The British rose again with Ewan Smith defeating countryman Eliot Nightingale in a four-game final. Neither had trouble reaching that round. Sam Haig from Greenwich took 3rd place, and Dylan Murray (8 years old) captured the Consolation.

BU11: The aforementioned Dylan Murray had serious semi-final trouble with a squeaker over Britain's Calum Smith in four games, two of which were overtime. He went on to handle Liam McClintock in the final while Calum took 3rd over Jay Rodman. Reid Breck won the Consolation over Liam Quinn.

For any of you who would like to relive the agony and ecstasy of the actual draws, they can be found at the following web site: <http://www.ma-squash.org/juniors/holidayjuniors2003.xls>

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Junior News

2004 Massachusetts Junior Open: January 9–12

by Jeannie Blasberg, Tournament Director

The bitter cold weather didn't keep the squash enthusiasts away from the Murr Center at Harvard University in early January. The Mass Junior Open (MJO) enjoyed a strong turnout of young players from the region as well as players traveling in from Washington state, the Midwest and the Caribbean. The tournament hosted 145 players in all.

The Mass Junior Open included nine draws this year, including an under 11 draw for the girls. The most heavily subscribed draw by far was the BU13, with a full draw of 32 players. Boys and girls under 15 were also heavily subscribed, with 22 players and 18 players respectively. The players were all guaranteed three matches; therefore first round consolation losers fed into a plate draw. Main draw losers fed into the consolation through the quarterfinal round. Many players enjoyed as many as 9 matches over the weekend. With all the matches and rounds to be played, the Murr Center was a very busy place.

The tournament was also the debut for many new SquashBusters students, having entered the middle school program this September. In all, 35 SquashBusters players entered the tournament, including both middle-schoolers and more seasoned high school students. Groups also entered from Brooks School, St. Mark's and Milton.

The tournament committee was large and worked well together and was pleased to keep everything on-time during for the weekend. Participants also were able to watch a scrimmage between the Harvard and Yale women's teams on Saturday afternoon.

The squash, sportsmanship, and comradery was a warming sight on this bitterly cold weekend. There was a roving band of kids that would start a "King-of-the-Court" game on any court that came available. Soon this game attracted all comers and was a delight to watch, as many kids made new friends.

Those players that stayed alive in the main draws were playing at a very high caliber. The BU19 was won by Garnett Booth, a Harvard University freshman who beat Milton's John Lingos-Webb in the semis to enter the final. Booth defeated C.J. Plimpton in the final. Plimpton is a top BU17 national player who entered a higher age division this weekend.

Mark Froot of Sudbury won the BU17, defeating another local player, Chris Vernick, in the semis to enter the final. The final pitted Froot against Christopher Reid of Rye, New York. Froot won in three easy games.

The BU15 draw was very strong, with the top seeds hailing from Washington state, Long Island, Philadelphia, and Concord, NH. The event was ultimately won by Will Hartigan of Concord, NH, handing down defeats to Boston's Amory Bennett, Andrew Emil from NYC, Stephen Harrington from Philly, and Rye's Brian Cady in the final.

The BU13 draw with 32 participants was also very strong talent-wise. The event was won by Christopher Holter from Baltimore, but not until he defeated Peter D. Murray of Bronxville, NY. Murray, just 8 years old, won the BU11 event, as well as the admiration of much of the crowd with his determination and hustle.

The local girls had more success taking home the silver in their draws. The GU19 was won by Julia Rosenthal, a Milton Academy team member. She defeated Rebecca Perlman of West Newton in the final. Perlman had entered the final by beating Chloe Wynne of Greenwich, and Rosenthal entered by defeating Chrissie Parsons of New Canaan.

The GU17 draw was won by Krissy Rubin of Boston. She defeated Laura Curren of Middletown, RI. Rubin also defeated Julie Weigel of Brooklyn on her way to the final.

The GU15 draw was won by Alexandra van Arkel of Radnor, PA. She defeated Cheri-Ann Parris of St. Philip, Barbados. The other semi-finalists were Maggie Remsen of Locust Valley, NY and Lauren Gesswein of Fairfield, CT.

The GU13 draw was won by Alli Rubin of Boston. This was Alli's last U13 event, as she will be celebrating a birthday in a few days. She defeated Sarah Loucks, also of Boston, in the final. It was an all-MSRA semi-final as Courtney Jones from Holden MA and Dori Rahbar of Newton also competed in that round.

Thanks to all who traveled to our fair city for this great competition—we hope to see you back again next year!

Special Mass Junior Open Thank You

by Wendy Ansdell, Tournament Referee

I would like to give a hearty, sincere thank you to all the volunteer referees. Without the help of everyone involved the MJO would not have run so smoothly. Everyone I asked to referee was very obliging and it made my job so much easier. To the juniors of the tournament, thank you, to those of you who stayed and refereed the next match on, to those who refereed other matches when asked, and to the one who offered the next day to referee because he told me he would!

I would also like to give special thanks to a few parents who were very understanding and obligingly refereed their own children's matches when no referees were available. Thankfully this did not happen often but is always a tough thing to ask a parent to do. TO ALL OF YOU, your help was invaluable—THANK YOU: Shona Kerr, Jeannie Blasberg, Tom Poor, Nat Lovell, Tom Tekesian, T.J. Quinn, Sue Lawrence, Seth Packard, Larry Davis, Mo Ramage, Sam Magruder, Carl Cummings, Chris Reigeluth, Erik Kirby, Gary Rubin, Mike Loucks, Nancy Loucks, Jim Sullivan, Chris Spahr, and to the parents. Also thanks to the following juniors: Mark Froot, Eric Jones, and Patrick Williams.

MSRA League News

Open 5.5

Philip Constable, League Chair

University Club	42 points
Concord-Acton	36 points
SquashBusters	28 points
Boston Sports Club	25 points
Union Boat Club	25 points
MIT	23 points
Tennis & Racquet	22 points
Sports Club/LA	18 points
Boston Racquet Club	13 points
Harvard Club	12 points
Harvard Business School	8 points

Open 4.5

by Eric Godes, League Chair

With the MSRA's largest league now two-thirds of the way through the season, a familiar squad stands out at the top of the charts in the form of juggernaut Concord-Acton. Using eight players so far to amass an impressive 82% winning percentage, their depth has really paid off as nobody on the team currently sits in the top 25 of the individual rankings. Nipping at Concord-Acton's heels is another of last year's playoff contenders—Longfellow. Thwarted in last year's playoff drive, Longfellow employed some shrewd recruiting tactics and deepened the supporting cast of ageless Mark Dickenson. Dickenson, the player to beat once again this year, turned down an invitation to play on the senior circuit and has been showing the rest of the 4.5 league that there's still something left in those old legs. Odds makers have him at even money to complete another undefeated season. The full standings through 10 weeks are as follows:

Team	Points	% of points Won
Concord Acton	37	82.20%
Longfellow Sudbury	36	80.00%
Harvard Club	32	71.10%
University Club	35	70.00%
HealthPoint	31	68.90%
MIT	29	64.40%
Union Boat Club	30	60.00%
Boston Ath. Club	29	58.00%
Boston Sports Club	26	57.80%
Maugus Club	23	51.10%
Boston Racquet	13	26.00%
Andover Racquet	12	24.00%
Harvard Bus. School	8	17.80%
Cambridge Racquet	4	8.90%
Tennis & Racquet	4	8.90%

People familiar with open 4.5 league play will notice a couple of surprises in this year's standings. The Harvard Club of Boston, normally a strong starter who fades at the end, hasn't shown any signs of weakening this year. New captain Jay Bradner has rallied the troops and gotten the most out of his team so far. A Cinderella story is forming, as this group didn't even qualify for the playoffs last year. The University Club shows equal promise. Another team left out of the playoffs last year, they're hanging on to the #4 spot and seem a lock to qualify this year.

With five weeks left in the season the complete playoff picture and seedings are still wide open. While it would take a near miracle for the bottom five teams to turn their season around in time, everything else is up for grabs. Best of luck to the over 100 competitors who comprise this impressive league.

Open 4.0

Kevin Hollister, League Chair

Another league, another exciting season. The new open 4.0 league broke onto the MSRA scene in November with no one knowing what would happen. Actually, that wasn't quite true at the beginning. With the addition of the new nine-team league, a professional-level juggling act was undertaken just to ensure that all of the league play could actually be accomplished. The result is not simply that another league began. There are more teams, more players and more squash with an opportunity to renew and develop some individual and team competitions.

Many who played in last season's C (now 3.5) league welcomed the addition of the 4.0 league because it offered a higher level of play without having to move to the lofty 4.5 level. At many clubs, the leap was simply not possible within the structure of the existing leagues. In those clubs where the 4.5 teams had an ample base of good players, the 4.0 option afforded an opportunity to play more often. The result has been a very competitive league and one that will continue to grow as more players continue to improve.

The results have been both predictable and surprising. For the first few weeks, it appeared as though a couple of the teams would be far in front and a couple would be relegated to the bottom of the standings but the results from the last two weeks have shaken things up. The Union Boat Club had been cruising along, winning all of its matches with either four or five points—until they were shut out in week 9 by the University Club. Concord Acton had been undefeated—until they lost in week 10 to the Harvard Club—in Boston. Sports Club/LA is a big story, having gone 7 weeks having won only one point but playing each of its last three opponents even in matches. (They lost the fifth point of each due to losing more games, but they're improving). Milton Academy and HealthPoint are near the back of the pack at the moment but have lost close matches all season. The warmer weather (I assume it will eventually come) may help these suburban teams heat up at crunch time. MIT has a solid team and needs only one breakthrough against a top team to move up the standings: maybe against Union Boat in week 11? The team to watch, however, is the Maugus Club, winners of 17 of their last 20 individual matches. With Union Boat and Concord-Acton scheduled to play each other twice in the last five weeks, Maugus seems poised to take over for one of them at the top. We shall see.

On a personal note, I must thank the team captains for their extraordinary efforts so far this year. It has not been easy to get things moving in the right direction but without their dedication, it would have been impossible.

Also, thank you to the MSRA for the 4.0 league. We are all grateful for the hard work that was put into our creation. I look forward to an exciting finish in the 4.0 league. As players get into better condition, the play is likely to become more

(continued on page 10)

MSRA League News *(continued)*

competitive, both for individuals and teams. Good luck to all.

	% points won
Union Boat Club	88.6%
Concord-Acton	85.7%
Maugus Club	65.7%
University Club	50.0%
Harvard Club	45.7%
MIT	42.9%
HealthPoint	30.0%
Milton Academy	28.6%
Sports Club/LA	3.3%

Open 3.5

Simon Graham, League Chair

With the introduction of the 4.0 league this year, the 3.5 league is very different; out of 90 players registered as members of the 3.5 league, 17 played in the 2.5 league last year and 40 are playing in the leagues for the first time this year. We're very pleased that we've managed to attract so many new players and given the opportunity for players to move up.

After 8 weeks of play, the Concord-Acton team leads the table with a perfect score. Behind them Longfellow, HealthPoint, and T&R are vying for 2nd place, with the MIT and Boston Athletic Club teams right behind them.

	% of points Won
Concord Acton	93.3%
Longfellow Club	73.3%
Tennis & Racquet	73.3%
HealthPoint	71.1%
MIT	68.9%
Boston Athletic Club	62.2%
Cambridge Racquet	57.8%
University Club	33.3%
Harvard Business School	22.2%
Maugus Club	22.2%
Sports Club/LA	11.1%
Harvard Club	6.7%

Open 2.5

Carl Cummings, League Chair

The Open 2.5 League lost one team from the previous year (Maugus) but gained four others (Harvard Club, which returned after several years absence, and new entries Harvard Business School, Sports Club/LA, and Boston Boasts), giving the league 14 teams, the most it has had in recent memory. Although the new teams have generally had difficult rookie seasons, experience teaches that experience teaches and that complete turnarounds within a year or two are not uncommon. Special notice is due the Boasts, who have had one of the better attendance records, notwithstanding that, because their home venue, the Boston YMCA, has only narrow courts, they have to play all of their matches away.

	% of points Won
Tennis & Racquet	80.0%
Andover Racquets Club	77.8%
Concord Acton	75.6%
Cambridge Racquet	73.3%

Friends of Millet @ Milton	66.7%
Boston Racquet Club	62.2%
Longfellow Club	55.6%
University Club	53.3%
Union Boat Club	46.7%
HealthPoint	44.4%
Harvard Business School	28.9%
Harvard Club	17.8%
Sports Club L/A	11.1%
Boston Boasts (YMCA)	6.7%

Men's 50+

Lew Holmes, League Chair

The 50+ league, now in its 16th year, has seven teams this year. We welcome HealthPoint as a new team. The standings, as of 1/12/04, were:

	Wins
Union Boat Club	22
Boston Racquet	20
Concord/Acton	20
Milton	16
Harvard Club	14
Maugus Club	10
HealthPoint	5

Several very strong players, new to the age group, are playing this year, raising the level of play and the competition.

Women's 4.5+

Orla O'Doherty, League Chair

December 3, 2003: It could have been the women's national 5.0 championships last night at SquashBusters, with the amount of talent on court among the Boston women. Not only did we have a great turnout, but the skill level was top notch, and makes us really grateful to have so many good female players in our area. Apart from my little hiccup with Hope (having told her to turn LEFT on Columbus, instead of RIGHT—I'll never live that down), the evening went fairly well.

The first match on court was between Julia Moore of SquashBusters and Blair Irwin of Harvard Business School. While I could only sneak in a few peaks while tutoring the SB students, it looked like a closely fought battle, with Blair sneaking in a win 3 games to 1. Blair had to rush off to a cocktail party (she's looking to schmooze with some potential employers!) and Julia needed to get home to her two-year-old son.

Next up was Hope Prockop against Wendy Ansdell. At the same time, we had—dare I say—“young vs. old.” Becca Loucks, a senior at Nobles & Greenough jumped on court to play Jeannie Blasberg of the Harvard Club. Perhaps it was “youth versus experience,” because despite Becca's natural ability to move around the court and keep up with her opponent's “I'm never going to stop running” style, Jeannie persevered and took the match in five, winning 9-4 in the fifth.

Back to my best friend Hope versus SquashBusters' very own Wendy. After going 2-1 down, Hope refused to quit fighting and came back to win the fourth. The crowd was going wild—the crowd being me, Jackie Rosenthal, and a few North-eastern students. It was such a close fifth game that I didn't

(continued on page 11)

MSRA League News *(continued)*

actually know who won it until I asked Wendy at the end. (I must have turned my back for a brief moment when it looked like someone wanted my opinion on a let or a stroke.) Well done, WENDY! for taking the match in 5. Still, Hope wanted more, and so they played another best-of-three match.

A very exciting match to watch was between college coach Shona Kerr (of Wellesley) and college student Lillian Rosenthal (of Brown). It was probably some of the tightest squash I'd seen, with both players managing to move each other around the court beautifully. That Lillian is fast! Shona is tall and it's difficult to get much past her. Shona went up 2-0 after Lillian took a dive and opened a wound causing it to bleed (don't worry, no blood on the court). This may have broken Lillian's concentration, understandably so, and Shona ended up winning in three very close games.

The last match of the evening was between Susan Rafuse of Concord-Acton and Shona Kerr (still of Wellesley). Susan has been working on her fitness over the last 4-5 months and was ready to put up a battle. Meanwhile, Shona was ready for more—she too has been working on her fitness and was ready to go after her first match. Unfortunately, I didn't see any of the match due to my babysitting duties (which I enjoyed very much, Susan!), but I do know that Shona won in 4. So it must have been good....If you're wondering why I didn't do anything, you're wrong. I did at least 40 court sprints with Susan's two-year-old Sarah Kelly while drawing pictures of boats and puppies on our white board. I'm back in action.

What a fabulous night of squash. I'd like to thank Wendy, Hope P, Susan, and Shona for making the effort to drive into Boston. It means a lot to see such dedication to the sport we love, and this attitude can only continue to spread.

Women's 3.5+

Bry Roskoz, League Chair

Concord-Acton	29 points
Harvard Club	26 points
University Club	20 points
Boston Sports Club	0 points

This year's Women's 3.5 League is clearly quality over quantity. Despite having only four teams in the league this year, there is a heated battle for the top spots among three of the four teams.

After 8 matches, Concord-Acton is in first place with 29 points due to a deep roster with its top three players, Captain Kara Kardon, Tina Grossberg and Tina Wu, rotating in the 1, 2 and 3 positions. Word also has it that Concord-Acton's #4, Naomi Bradshaw is making a strong run for "Most Improved Player."

Harvard Club is close behind at 26 points, with their clutch #1, Merrill Muckerman, who arrived on the Boston squash scene this fall and knocked down some strong opponents before anyone really figured out who she was. Harvard Club also has good depth, with Pam Larson and Emily Lubin playing at #2 and #3.

After a strong start but some disappointing defaults of late, the University Club is in third place with 20 points. This is

another team with depth—Kate Lytle, Neely Steinberg, Boston newcomer Liz Steffey and Wendy Irwin—that if they got their schedules together, might actually be able to break into one of the top two spots by the end of the season.

The Boston Sports Club is in a rebuilding year. Captain Lisa Evans has been diligent managing her team of young up-and-comers, with some substituting assistance from Boston squash league veteran Alison Amherst. We'll have to see if a little more experience this year enables them to gain some ground in the standings.

If there are any women 3.5/4.0 players who would like to participate in the remaining league matches this season or next year's league, please contact Bry Roskoz at bry.roskoz@bain.com.

Women's 2.5

Phoebe Slanetz, League Chair

Cambridge @ Murr	47 points
HealthPoint	36 points
Tennis & Racquet	29 points
Concord-Acton	26 points
Harvard Club	24 points
Maugus Club	23 points
Sports Club/LA	16 points
Cambridge Racquet	14 points
University Club	6 points

The Women's 2.5 league this season added three teams to the roster: SportsClub/LA, Maugus Club, and Cambridge @ Murr, with a total of nine teams. Cambridge @ Murr, led by Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, took the early lead and has remained there ever since, with an undefeated record. The team has depth, with Miriam Marcus, Kim Song, and the #1 ranked player from last year, Bernadette Dixon, playing in the lower part of the ladder.

Healthpoint, led by Jane Adams, has come out strong and is right behind Cambridge @ Murr in the standings. Returning players Jamie Banks, Diana Smith, Laurie Manos, and Kami Guerrier—who won the consolation round in the state championships last year—make this a difficult team to beat. The T&R has also had a very good run so far this season, with the addition of Suzi Schwartz and Laura Tillsley.

Concord-Acton, Harvard Club, and Maugus are in the middle of the standings. CASC is a worthy opponent, with Peg Sestrich, Polly Vanasse, and Sarah Lemaire, last year's league chair. The Harvard Club is moving ahead in the ranks, with Azi Rahbar as captain. Maugus, led by Deborah Ellinger, is also a strong team with Kerry Wellington, Lucy Bradley, and Becky Lingard.

Cambridge Racquet, with Aya Sato-DiLorenzo and Maria Mayorga, the captain of the Cambridge Racquet team, has continued to put up a good fight. SportsClub/LA has moved forward in the standings, with Nicole Zola joining the team. And the University Club team, with many new players, including Virginia Valdez, Shifteh Fahr, and Lisa MacAlaster, is gaining on SportsClub/LA's lead.

Tournament Results

Middlesex Bowl Concord-Acton November 1-3, 2002

Open 5.5:

Jim Usherwood def. Dave Adams (3-1)

Open 4.5:

Brian Roberts def. Matt Crome (3-1)

Open 3.5:

Chris Yates def. Kevin Hollister (3-0)

Open 2.5:

Jonathon McMurray def. Fred Burnham (3-1)

Open 50+ (Round Robin):

Winner: Rick Pankrat
Runner-up: Jim Coddington

Open 60+/(Round Robin):

Winner: Doug Lee
Runner-up: Phil Clapp

Women's 3.0:

Bernadette Dixon def. Dominique Farinaux-Dumas, 3-2

Men's 55+:

Steve Steinberg def. Peter Wiles (3-2)

Men's 65+ (Round Robin):

Winner: Sam Jernigan
Runner Up: Gene Waters

Women's 5.0:

Marilu Fortson def. Merrill Muckerman (3-2)

Women's 4.0:

Neely Steinberg def. Eliza Roberts (3-1)

Women's 3.0:

Ashley Kilgore def. Ashley Edwards (3-0)

Open 3.0/3.5:

Final:
Jerry Stonehouse def. Edward Lee (3-1)

Consolation:

John Catlin def. Colin Leech (3-1)

The January Thaw Concord-Acton January 17-19, 2003

Open 5.5:

Mike Semprucci def. Dave Adams (3-0)

Open 4.5:

Derrick Cameron def. Matthew Sleasman (3-0)

Open 3.5:

Andrew Bullen def. Mark Siegel (3-1)

Open 2.5:

Tom Knox def. Chris Kovacs (3-2)

Open 50+/55+:

Ron Beck def. Jack Esselen (3-0)

Open 60+ (Round Robin):

Winner: John Brock
RunnerUp: Doug Lee

Women's 4.0 (Round Robin):

Winner: Tina Wu
Runner Up: Margo Grossberg

Women's 3.0 (Round Robin):

Winner: Bernadette Dixon
Runner Up: Peg Sestrich

University Club Open December 5-7, 2004

Open 5.5:

Final:
Mike Semprucci def. Dave Adams (3-1)

Open 3.5:

Final:
Barry Hinckley def. Amrit Kanwal (3-0)
Consolation:
Neely Steinberg def. Bill Buker

Open 2.5:

Final:
Justin Bond def. Jonas McCray (default)
Consolation:
Alexis Wallace def. Melissa London

Maine Squash Open Bowdoin College November 7-9, 2003

Open 6.0:

David Sly def. Mike Semprucci (3-0)

Open 5.5:

Amina Helal def. Jon Crowell (3-2)

Open 5.0:

Tim Bacon def. Pam Saunders (3-2)

Open 4.5:

Vaidehi Reddy def. Isa Restrepo (3-0)

Open 3.5:

Chris Powell def. Rob Carrigg (3-2)

Open 2.5:

Tom Knox def. Mark Alexander (3-1)

Jerry Martin Broken Racquet Open Boston Athletic Club January 9-11, 2004

Open 4.0/4.5:

Final:
John Gillooly def. Eric Sanders (3-1)
Consolation:
Jeff Cordeiro def. Barrett Hinckley (3-2)

2003 Summers Cup Union Boat Club December 5-7, 2003

Open 4.5:

Final:
H. O'Donnell def. Bill Boardman (3-0)

Consolation:

Spencer Macalaster def. Don Cordell (3-1)

Doubles News

Davidson–Gould Win 2004 University Club Pro-Am Doubles

by *Sandy Tierney*

Malcolm Davidson and his professional playing partner, Ben Gould, came out on top of 15 other pro-am teams in the University Club Pro Am Doubles, January 15–17, 2004. Davidson-Gould, first-time participants in this tournament, came out strong in the final against Sandy Tierney and James Hewitt, winning the first two games easily and gaining a match point in the third before letting their opponents back into the match by dropping the third game (15-14) and the fourth. In the end, Davidson's tenacity, complemented by Gould's power and shot-making, took the fifth game and the championship convincingly in the fifth. Davidson and Gould's toughest test was in the semifinal where they defeated Lenny Bernheimer and Gould's playing partner in the tournament, Eric Vleck, 15–13 in the fifth. Their previous victories were a four-game disposition of Poor-Pavulans and a three-game win over Gary Waite and Eric Grossman in the opening round.

The University Club Pro Doubles Championship and its sister tournament, the University Club Pro-Am Doubles Championship have become an important mid-January fixture in the ISDA Professional Doubles Tour. With close to 50 patrons and 16 players providing financial support to the event, the professionals competed for over \$25,000 in prize money. In addition, the level of play in both the pro event and the pro-am tournament bring out sizable galleries throughout the weekend. The pro final, held on Monday, January 19, featured one of the most exciting matches of the season, with Josh McDonald and Victor Berg seizing a narrow victory 17-14 in the fifth game from the most successful team in pro doubles history, Gary Waite and Damien Mudge.

In the North Draw, featuring teams that won their first match but lost in the second round of the main draw, Scott Butcher and Jay Hirshberg overcame their second-round loss to Tierney-Hewitt by besting Willey Hosey and Dave Riccio in the semifinal in four and then winning a very competitive final against Tom Poor and Alex Pavulans 15-14 in the fifth. Poor-Pavulans began the tournament with a win over host pro Chris Spahr and Dick Whitney before losing to Davidson-Gould in four games. They then bested Bob Malloy and his partner, Victor Berg in the North Draw semifinal, before meeting Butcher-Hirshberg in the final.

In the West Draw, featuring first-round losers, Dave Dali and Jeff Osborne overcame their initial loss to Hosey-Riccio by posting three consecutive victories: First, over Preston Quick and Matt Kozol in a five-game match that was only four short of the maximum possible number of points: 14-15, 15-13, 15-14, 13-15, and 15-12. Their second was another competitive match unfortunately brought to a premature end when Jim Bildner's Achilles tendon, unwilling to stay intact until his 50th birthday 10 days later, gave out at 10-9 in the fifth game. The final chapter of the Dali-Osborne saga was a solid win over Gary Waite and Doc Grossman in the West Draw final, overcoming a first-game loss with convincing margins in the remaining three games.

In the South Draw, Preston Quick and Matt Kozol overcame the psychological approach of Steve Wolfe, resplendent in a pink warm-up and Damien Mudge, who sported a bright blue helmet, with a convincing three-game victory. Quick-Kozol overcame Josh McDonald and Dick Starbuck in one semifinal, while Wolfe and Mudge snuck by Dick Whitney and Chris Spahr 15-14 in the fifth in the other semifinal.

As the finishing touches are put on the final draw memorializing the 2004 Pro-Am Doubles event in anticipation of its prominent display beside the University Club Doubles Court, entries are already being submitted for the 2005 Championship.

Senior Fall Foliage Doubles Tournament University Club: October 17–19, 2003

by *Lee Spelke*

The 5th annual Senior Fall Foliage Doubles tournament featuring the best Boston senior doubles talent took center stage October 17–19th. Many players from across the country as well as some of the best Canadian players arrived to compete for titles in the 55+, 60+, 65+ and 70+ age divisions.

In addition to a highly competitive weekend on the court, social activities included a courtside Friday evening cocktail party, Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch.

Winners, 55+ Championship

Dick Rice (Rochester, NY) & Sandy Tierney

55+ Ringers

Sandy Tierney, Doug Lifford, Jamie Fagan, Chris Spahr

60+ Championship

Bob Spahr (Philadelphia) & Lenny Bernheimer

65+ Championship

Hank Shaw & Lee Spelke

70+ Championship

Don Boyko (National Champion)

Joel Kozol (National Champion)

Upcoming Adult Tournaments

SPRANG THANG

March 12–14, 2004

MIT's Zesiger Sports Center, Cambridge

Open 4.5, 3.5, 2.5

Melissa London, mblondon100@hotmail.com 617-524-7979

THE LEPRECHAUN

Concord-Acton Squash Club

March 26–28, 2004

Men's 5.5, 4.5, 3.5, 2.5; Women's 5.0, 4.0, 3.0

Paul Ansdell, casc2@earthlink.net, 978-897-2972

State Softball Championships: Singles and Doubles

DIVISIONS:

Open Skill Levels: 5.5, 4.5, 4.0, 3.5, 2.5

Men's Age Groups: 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+

Women's Skill Levels: 4.5, 3.5, 2.5; Women's Age Group: 35+

Softball Doubles Skill Levels: A, B, C; Age Groups: 50+, 60+; Men, Women, & Mixed.

DATES:

- Women's 4.5, 3.5, 2.5, are April 3rd (2:30pm – 8pm) and April 4th (9am–2pm) at SquashBusters, through semifinals.
- Men's age groups and open skill levels are self-scheduling beginning Feb. 19th, through semis.
- Women's age groups are self-scheduling beginning February 24th, through semi-finals
- Softball Doubles are self scheduling til the finals, to be played at Concord-Acton or Maugus Club, beginning in April.

FINALS: All singles finals are Thursday April 15th, starting at 5:30 pm at SquashBusters. Softball doubles finals are Wednesday May 12th at 6:30pm at Concord Acton Squash.

ENTRY FEE: Free to MSRA members. \$55 for non-members.

Register for the state championships at www.ma-squash.org.

ENTRY DEADLINES

Open Singles: February 10th

Women's skill levels: March 24th

Men's age groups: February 10th

Doubles softball: March 24th

Women's age groups: February 16th

Skill Level entrants may not enter a division below, or more than one division above, their appropriate level. A player's appropriate level may be determined from league and tournament play. Some players may have a skill rating posted at the USSRA website. If you're uncertain which level is appropriate for you, consult with the coordinator for the division you wish to enter. Submit a separate entry for each division you wish to enter.

CONTACTS:

Women:

Age Groups: Hope Crosier 617-723-5379

4.5: Orla O'Doherty o.odoherty@squashbusters.org 617-373-7374

3.5: Bry Roskoz bry.roskoz@bain.com (w) 617-572-2811

2.5: Phoebe Slanetz pslanetz@bso.org (w) 617- 638-9445

Men:

Age Groups: Fran Donlan fran.donlan@morganstanley.com (w) 781-681-4928,

Open:

5.5: Phil Constable pconstable@remedialcapital.com (w) 617-283-9218

4.5: Eric Godes egodes@kobren.com (w) 617-369-2300 (h) 781-444-0309

4.0: Kevin Hollister khollister@helixtechnology.com (w) 508-337-5131 (h) 978-263-1140

3.5: Simon Graham simon.graham@stratus.com (h) 978-779-6010 (w) 978-461-7142

2.5: Carl Cummings carlcummings@hotmail.com (w) 617-345-0444, (h) 781-821-5547

Softball Doubles:

Steve Steinberg actonmgt@verizon.net (w) 978-263-2989 # 2

Louis Holmes holmes.lewis@mgh.harvard.edu (w) 617-726-1742 (h) 781-237-9313

•MASSACHUSETTS SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION•

You can submit your information on line from our website at www.ma-squash.org.

If you use this form, please print clearly.

New Membership

Renewal

Annual Adult Membership: \$55
(Includes one-year membership in USSRA)

MSRA-only Life Membership: \$400
(Includes one-year membership in USSRA)

Annual Junior Membership: \$45
(Includes one-year membership in USSRA)

MSRA/USSRA Life Membership: \$1400
(No further dues required)

Current MSRA-only Life Members should pay only \$35 to cover the USSRA portion of the annual dues.
Current USSRA-only Life Members should pay only \$20 to cover the MSRA portion of the annual dues.
All Annual Memberships expire on June 30.

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Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Sex: Male Female USSRA#: _____

Club/School: _____ Rating: _____

Club/School: _____

Level of Play: Men 5.5 4.5 4.0 3.5 2.5 Beginner
Women 4.5 3.5 2.5 Beginner

Mail Application to: MSRA Checks made payable to: MSRA
P.O. Box 51611
Boston, MA 02205-1611

Thank you for your membership!