

MSRA News

Massachusetts Squash Racquets Association Newsletter

President's Letter

In Ian McEwan's new novel *Saturday*, there is an extended account of a squash match between the protagonist, Henry Perowne, and a colleague of his. Describing a long point that begins their third game, McEwan writes, "It's possible in a long rally to become a virtually unconscious being, inhabiting the narrowest slice of the present, merely reacting, taking one shot at a time, existing only to keep going. Perowne is already at that state, digging in deep, when he remembers he's supposed to have a game plan." Ah, yes. Been there, done that.

As I write, I am approaching the end of my two years as president of the MSRA. The two years have passed quickly, in retrospect almost suddenly, and by the time you read this I will have been succeeded by Eric Godes. By all rights (and rites), this should be Eric's first letter but, having assured him that the job is easy, I have appropriated the space so I could thank those who make it so. I won't single out anyone because, unfortunately, there isn't enough space to name everyone, but I have written before, and it bears repeating, how much work is done by the other members of the MSRA Board and other volunteers.

There are challenges ahead, of course, including coordinating with the USSRA in possibly running MSRA leagues through its RailStation system, but the MSRA is a strong and vital organization. It survived my tenure, and I'm confident that under Eric's leadership and with the support of its membership we will continue to develop and implement a game plan to foster the growth of squash in our region.

—Carl Cummings

MSRA President Emeritus

State Champions!



Men's 55+
Champion: Fran Donlan (University Club)
Finalist: Tom Quinn (Harvard Club)



Women's 3.5/4.5
Champion: Kate Lytle (University Club)
Finalist: Leslie Mann (Tennis & Racquet Club)



Men's 70+
Champion: Lee Engler (Maugus Club)
Finalist: Frank DeFalco (Friends of WPI)



Men's 4.5
Finalist: Bob Frazier (Maugus Club)
Champion: Ethan Hugo (Boston Racquet Club)



Women's 40+
Champion: Susan Rafuse (Concord-Acton)
Finalist: Julia Moore (Harvard Club)



Men's 35+
Champion: Jason Hicks (University Club)
Finalist: Scott Poirier (University Club)

(More state championship photos on pages 2 and 3)

MSRA Members Place in the USSRA Nationals

The USSRA National Championships took place in Boston during the weekend of March 16–20 at Harvard and MIT. Several MSRA members placed in the top two in their divisions. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Women's 5.0: Shona Kerr, 1st place
Wendy Ansdell, 2nd place

Women's 4.5: Kate Lytle, Finalist

Women's 4.0: Liz Steffey, Winner
Leslie Mann, Finalist

Women's 3.5: Szilvi Szombati, Winner
Kara Kardon, Finalist

Women's 3.0: Liz Lambert, Winner
Bernadette Dixon, Finalist

Women's 2.5: Lucy Bradley, Winner
Maria Mayorga, Finalist

Women's 55+: Lucy Bradley, 2nd place

Women's 50+: Julia Moore, 1st place

Women's 35+: Sharon Bradey, Winner
Wendy Ansdell, Finalist

Women's U35: Shona Kerr, Winner
Mary Belknap McKee, Finalist

Men's 3.0: Jeffrey Brown, Runner-up

Men's 75+: Lee Engler, Winner

Men's 60+: Dan Hogan, Finalist

Men's U25: Siddharth Suchde, Winner

State Champions!



Men's 50+
Finalist: John Connolly (University Club)
Champion: Derrick Niederman (University Club)



Men's 65+
Finalist: Lew Holmes (Maugus Club)
Champion: Doug Lee (Cambridge Racquet Club)



Men's 60+
Champion: Steve Steinberg (Concord-Acton)
Finalist: Mike Keating (Union Boat Club)



Men's 4.0
Finalist: Tom Quinn (Harvard Club)
Champion: Roger Jones (Concord-Acton)

State Champions!



Men's 3.5
Finalist: Ghary Gappelberg (Healthpoint)
Champion: Christophe Dupupet (Concord-Acton)



Women's 2.5
Champion: Liz Lambert (SquashBusters)
Finalist: Bernadette Dixon (SquashBusters)



Men's 2.5
Finalist: Phil Murphy (Friends of Milton)
Champion: Jeffrey Wade Brown (Tennis & Racquet Club)



Men's 40+
Finalist: Scott Poirier (University Club)
Champion: Tyler Hindermann (Union Boat Club)



Women's 5.0 & Women's 35+
Champion: Sharon Bradey (Harvard Club)
Finalist: Wendy Ansdell (Concord-Acton)



Men's 45+
Champion: Whitney Boucher (Boston Racquet)
Finalist: John Connolly (University Club)



Men's 5.5
Champion: Daniel Sharplin (Tennis & Racquet)
Finalist: Pat Malloy (University Club)
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MSRA Junior Committee: 2004-2005 Season Report

MSRA junior players enjoyed a full slate of activities this season. This schedule, combined with school and club teams, clinics, etc. meant that juniors of all abilities had the chance to play both competitively and for fun.

Tournaments Sponsored by the MSRA Junior Committee

Mass Junior Open: January 7-9 @ Murr Center

This event is customarily our largest tournament. 212 entries, including 65 SquashBusters participants, played this year at Harvard, with competitors from as far away as Michigan and Quebec, as well as contingents from many private schools including Nobles, Loomis-Chaffee, Groton and St. Mark's. With each player guaranteed three matches, all 16 courts were in constant motion from Friday to Sunday afternoon.

Mass Junior Closed: February 18-20 @ SquashBusters

This tournament was open to all New England players except those residents of Connecticut living south of New Haven. Entries in eight draws numbered 117, with again a large contingent of SquashBusters participants on their home courts.

Articles on both these tournaments are on the MSRA Juniors web site (www.ma-squash.org/juniors) and draws for each division may be located on RailStation on the USSRA web site (www.us-squash.org).

Junior Leagues

The Junior League played on four 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, round-robin matches over a three-hour period. On any given Sunday, 25-35 juniors will participate. This year, teams from the Maugus, Harvard, Concord-Acton and University Clubs were joined by a SquashBusters team, as well as unaffiliated juniors who were assigned to a team.

U.S. Open

With the cooperation of John Nimick, the promoter of this world-class tournament, MSRA juniors were treated to a "Junior Jam," where some 60 players were able to play and receive coaching from the top professionals during an afternoon session in September.

Web Page (www.ma-squash.org/juniors)

The MSRA Juniors web page is a current source of tournament writeups, pictures from tournaments, entry forms, rankings and the tournament schedule. Notices of summer camps can be found on the main MSRA site.

USSRA Representation

Gary Rubin is our delegate to the USSRA Junior Committee. Vijay Chitnis is the new member of the USSRA staff devoted to junior development and hence is Gary's main contact. Subjects under active discussion include the makeup of junior teams representing the U.S., 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. RailStation is the developing program designed to provide rankings, tournament information and league standings.

2005-2006 Season

Plans are already underway to host a New England Open junior tournament November 4-6 in conjunction with the U.S. Open. This event would create a festive atmosphere around the Open, which for the first time will host both a men's and women's professional event. Further, the tournament will move from Symphony Hall to the Murr Center where a new 300-seat exhibition court is under construction. The portable court will be placed on the tennis courts with seating for 600.

The Junior League's success may lead to an additional Sunday if scheduling can be arranged.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank the many volunteers who contributed their time to help these programs run successfully. In particular, Suzy Schwartz has been invaluable in her direction of the desks at the tournaments and her organization of the Junior League teams. We will miss her as she leaves the area for graduate school.

—MSRA Junior Committee (Sharon Bradey, Erik Kirby, Mike Loucks, Libby McClintock, Gary Rubin, Azi Rahbar, Suzy Schwartz, Chris Spahr, Jim Sullivan, Tom Poor, Chair)



Mass Junior Closed: Boys Under 15
Barrett Takesian (Chestnut Hill) -
Champion
Charles Gertler (Weston) - Finalist



Mass Junior Closed: Girls Under 13
Kadineyse Ramize (SquashBusters) -
Finalist
Ashley Brooks (SquashBusters) -
Champion



Mass Junior Closed: Boys Under 13
Liam McClintock (Wellesley) - Finalist
Julian Kirby (Dover) - Champion

Mass Junior Closed: New Faces and Veterans

On the chilly but pleasant weekend of February 19–20, 118 players along with parents, siblings and lots of other interested onlookers gathered at the SquashBusters Center for this year's tournament. 66 players were from SquashBusters, which lent a hometown flavor to the event and a much appreciated source of hospitality to all who spent the weekend playing, watching and helping orchestrate the tournament. The "closed" format of this year's tournament limited entries to residents of New England, excluding Connecticut residents south of New Haven, plus any students attending New England secondary schools. Entries were about 100 less than the Massachusetts Junior Open, held in early January, due both to the "closed" nature, but more probably to the conflicts of school matches and a crowded junior tournament schedule.

Girls Under 17: Nobles' teammates Elena Laird and Eliana Saltzman were seeded along with Danvers' Maura Neal. Eliana ran into trouble in the quarters, bowing to Elisa Melendez of the SquashBusters. Elena fared better, squeezing out a five-game victory over Maura in the semifinals, and then defeating Elisa in a three-game final. Maura prevailed over Courtney Kollmer from the Berkshire School in the third-place playoff; Shanita Williams won the Consolation and Jaye Cooke the Plate.

Girls Under 15: 17 players marched to the starting gate, led by nationally ranked Sarah Loucks at #1, Dori Rahbar at #2 and 12-year old Ariel Posner from Brookline, playing up a division, at #3. Half the entrants were from SquashBusters, but they were gone from the main draw by Saturday noon. Sarah cruised, encountering token opposition from Holden's Courtney Jones in the semis. Dori did likewise, yielding only nine points to Ariel in the semis. The final was a tense exchange throughout, with Sarah taking the first at 2, losing the second in overtime, and winning the third at 4. At this point Dori, also a Nobles team member, dug in a little harder, playing with little outward emotion compared to Sarah and squeezed out the fourth at 7, and then the last game at 6. Courtney took Ariel for third place, Hannah Coffin won the Consolation with a 10-8 fifth over Maggie Bouscaren, and Ana Lopez took the Plate.

Girls Under 13: In this 16-player draw, all the entrants were from SquashBusters except Torey Lee of Beverly. Torey went out in the semis to Kadineyse Ramize, who in turn bowed to Ashley Brooks in a three-game final. Top-seeded Bianca Vega won the third place playoff over Torey; Jaleesa Walker won the Consolation and Alicia Forde the Plate.

Boys Under 19: Five entrants played a round robin. Andover's Dan Wagman emerged the victor, winning all four of his matches, including a three-game victory over finalist Teddy Panarese from Milton.

Boys Under 17: Top-seeded Chris Vernick of Milton encountered little opposition in this draw of 17, conquering Nobles' Andy Macalester in a three-game final. Chris is a junior and plays #2 at Milton behind senior John Lingos-Webb. Things were not so easy for Andy, who had to work very hard to get by SquashBusters' Patrick Williams in a four-game quarterfinal and then again in the semis over Adam Vartikar from Brookline. Adam won third over Pedro Souza from SquashBusters. In the Consolation, Dan Lesser survived a dangerous five-game semifinal tussle with Patrick and then won a straight-game match over Ben DiCamillo of Nobles in the final. The Plate was won by SquashBusters' Nicheren Peral.

Boys Under 15: As a fitting climax to his U15 career, Barrett Takesian won the final over #1 seed Charles Gertler. Two days later, he turned 15. Barrett cruised easily through three matches before the final struggle. Charles did as well, as they were the class of the 21-player draw, the second largest of the tournament. Tyler Kopp from Providence defeated SquashBusters' Eddie Gentle for third. Newton's Jeremy Wong had the longest tournament of anyone. Seeded #3 he lost, 10-9 in the fifth, to Anyeifry Sanchez from SquashBusters in the round of 16. In the Consolation, he played three times to arrive in the finals where he again met Sanchez, and again went five games. This time, however, he won the final game. SquashBusters' Rony Correia won the plate.

Boys Under 13: 27 youngsters went to the starting line in this draw, nearly half of them from SquashBusters. As in the GU15, the SquashBusters players were gone by the end of the second round. Liam Quinn, the second seed, was bounced in the semifinals by third-seeded Julian Kirby, setting up a final with top-seeded Liam McClintock, who at 10 ½ was playing up a division. Liam had advanced with a three-game victory over fourth-seeded Sam Sokolsky-Tiff from Williamstown. The final was a tense affair, particularly for the parents of both. Julian dropped the first two games decisively before recovering to win the third at 4. From there on, his game was superb at times, punctuated by errors at others, testing his self-control in several instances. There were enough good moments to capture the last two games and the title. Sam beat Liam Quinn for third, while Michael Lillie defeated Liam's brother, Conor McClintock in the Consolation. Bernie St. Vil from SquashBusters captured the plate over compatriot Randy Coplin.

Boys Under 11: This one was no contest, as James Fulham dominated the four-boy round-robin with three easy three-game wins. Jay Rodman took second and William Gertler third.

As the last match ended Sunday afternoon, the Committee declared victory with the trophies awarded, only a few tears shed and no injuries. There were lots of happy players who made new friends, enjoyed their matches and realized again that winning or losing means a lot less than who you are.

Photos of the Mass Junior Open winners and finalists are on pages 4 and 6.



Mass Junior Closed: Boys Under 11
 Jay Rodman (Newton) - Finalist
 James Fulham (Wellesley) - Champion



Mass Junior Closed: Girls Under 17
 Elisa Melendez (SquashBusters) - Finalist
 Elena Laird (Cambridge) - Champion



Mass Junior Closed: Boys Under 19
 Teddy Panarese (Milton) - Finalist
 Dan Wagman (Andover) - Champion



Mass Junior Closed: Boys Under 17
 Andy Macalaster (Wellesley) - Finalist
 Chris Vernick (West Roxbury) - Champion

Playing at the Junior Nat'ls

by Sarah Loucks

For the USSRA Junior Nationals, my mom and I left the night before by plane, arriving in Philadelphia. Then we drove down to Baltimore, where our hotel was essentially five minutes away from Meadow Mills, the club where the tournament was hosted. There, I settled down for the night at around 10:30—my first match was the next morning at 10.



Sarah Loucks, with winner Dori Rahbar, after the MJC GU15 finals.

The next morning, my mom and I arrived at Meadow Mills 40 minutes before my first match to check in, pick up my t-shirt, and see who I was playing. I saw people I recognized from camp, from Massachusetts, or just from the circuit.

When I saw the draw sheet, I saw that my first match was originally against Alli Rubin, who is on my squash team at Milton Academy, and I play with her nearly every day during the season. Of course, that was a bit upsetting, because the USSRA had come up with a new system for tournaments and rankings that was supposed to keep people from the same state from playing each other, but I was relieved to find that they had switched her name with that of Clare Berner, from Rye, New York, so we wouldn't have to play in the first round, thank God.

I played Clare and won 9-3, 9-3, 9-1—a good first round match—not too easy, not too hard—but much easier match than the one Alli had. Alli played Sarah Mumanachit from Pennsylvania and lost a very good match in 5 games.

After I passed in my sheet, I sat down and resigned myself to reffing a BU17 match. Both boys played a good, four-game match that lasted nearly an hour.

After I finished reffing, my mom and I went back to the hotel, which was conveniently located in the middle of a mall. We grabbed a bite to eat, and then went window shopping in all the stores, because we had until 7 to kill before my next match against Katie Ballaine, the number 3 seed. After picking out a few things to try on later, we headed back to our room for a little R&R. At 6:45, we headed back to the club, to arrive at around 7:00, only to find that my court was running two matches behind. So I hung around, warmed up a little, and watched a few other matches before I had to get on court.

I played a pretty good match and managed to get four points off of her in the first game, which was more than the number 6 seed got off of her in the entire match, and from the last time I played her the Christmas before last, you could tell that I had improved. In the end, I lost the match and ended up reffing again, but this time U17 girls. It was a relatively quick match, much quicker than the first one I reffed, and my mom and I went back to the hotel for the night to get some rest for my next match, which was at eight o'clock the next morning.

The next day, my mom and I arrived at the club and saw that I was to play Casey Cortes from Cambridge. I hadn't played her in a while, so I was psyched but rather tired. It started off well for me, but after a hard match, I lost in 3 games. Unfortunately, I was now out of the tournament, and a bit disappointed with myself, but there's always next year. After reffing and thanking Vijay, the tournament director, my mom and I set back to the hotel, ready to pack up and head back to Boston.

Massachusetts Juniors in the USSRA Rankings

as of April 18, 2005



Boys Under 13

Rank	Player	Tournaments
15	Kirby, Julian	9
24	McClintock, Liam	11
25	Sokolsky-Tiffit, Samuel	8
28	Lillie, Michael	4
43	McClintock, Conor	4
46	Chase, Peter	4
48	Quinn, Liam	8
59	Bajwa, Pehlaaj	4
67	Rahbar, Cameron	7
70	Columbia, Edward	4
77	Guerra, Jhonatan	4
81	Koekkoek, Toby	5
95	Krant, Nicholas	4
98	Riley, Gray	4
102	Ma, Matt	3
108	Mack, Peter	4

Boys Under 15

Rank	Player	Tournaments
12	Sullivan, William	9
22	Gertler, Charles	6
67	Wong, Jeremy	4
77	Crane, Greg	6
85	Nimmo, John	3
97	Sanchez, Anyeifry	5
99	Gentle, Eddie	3
100	Baker-White, Matthew	6
101	Holberton, Tod	4
109	Foehl, Taylor	4
126	Galvao, Rodney	4
128	Jalloh, Mahmud	4
129	Harris, Kai	3
139	Soto, Darryl	3
140	Correia, Rony	4

Boys Under 17

Rank	Player	Tournaments
17	Dowd, Ryan	7
30	Vernick, Christopher	11
62	Macalaster, Andrews	4
82	Jones, Livingston	7
83	Vartikar, Adam	5
84	Bennett, Amory	7
97	Lesser, Daniel	4
106	Bernard, Andrew	6
111	Souza, Pedro	5
124	Williams, Patrick	4
126	DiCamillo, Ben	4
133	Darlington, Mikheil	4
139	Duke, Perrin	3
148	Place, Alex	3
150	Peral, Nicheren	4
155	Ritter, Kenny	3
157	Cotter, Steven	6
159	Beatty-Austin, Justin	3

Boys Under 19

Rank	Player	Tournaments
3	Froot, Mark	5
7	Hrdy, Nicholas	6
9	Fulham, John	5
14	Lingos-Webb, John	4
34	Beck, Elliot	4
43	Heitzmann, Alex	4
69	Panarese, Edward	5

Girls Under 13

Rank	Player	Tournaments
18	Brooks, Ashley	4
29	Vega, Bianca	5
30	Posner, Ariel	9
31	Ramize, Kadineyse	4
32	Walker, Jaleesa	4
47	Lee, Torey	3

Girls Under 15

Rank	Player	Tournaments
22	Rahbar, Dori	7
23	Rubin, Alli	5
26	Loucks, Sarah	6
30	Cortes, Casey	3
47	Schafer, Corey	8
49	Jones, Courtney	6
56	Coffin, Hannah	4
57	Crosky, Sarah	6
60	Braga, Judy	3
81	Duke, Chapin	4
88	Duke, Paige	4
94	Luna, Soranyi	4
99	Joseph, Ken Maxia	4

Girls Under 17

Rank	Player	Tournaments
9	Cortes, Cece	5
57	Neal, Maura	5
60	Williams, Shanita	4
76	Saltzman, Eliana	4
83	Johnson, Monete	4
91	Cooke, Jacinth	3

Girls Under 19

Rank	Player	Tournaments
32	Rubin, Krissy	4
46	Williams, Shanita	3
51	Melendez, Elisa	4
53	Flamenco, Vicky	4

MSRA end-of-year adult and junior rankings will be posted on the website (www.ma-squash.org) this spring.

SquashBusters Sixth Graders Visit Cradles to Crayons

by Mike Lemaire, SquashBusters volunteer



Janiot Bonilla finds outfits for a 6-12 month old girl.

On Saturday, March 19, 2005, the entire sixth grade team from SquashBusters, along with coach Ted Childs, academic director Joanna Bengel, and four volunteers, traveled to North Quincy for a group community service project. The organization the sixth graders visited is called Cradles to Crayons, an organization devoted to helping the poor and homeless children in the Boston area. This organization takes new and gently used donated clothing items and toys, and organizes and sends them to specific homeless children in the greater Boston area. On Saturday, the sixth graders were split into two groups; one group made sure all the toys were clean and in good working condition, and the other group was in charge of picking out outfits for the recipients of these packages. All of the kids had fun picking out outfits for these needy children, but also inspecting, assembling, and/or playing with the toys that were to be shipped off to



Jessica Greaves holds up a cute tank top for a toddler.



homeless children. Representatives from Comcast were there distributing black "Comcast Cares" t-shirts to all of the student

and adult volunteers. In four hours, the members of the sixth grade SquashBusters team were able to put together enough packages to help approximately 31 homeless kids in New Bedford.



Steven Vo cleans a toy boat.



Bernie St. Vil sorts toys.



Rafy Fernandez with two of his favorite toys.

Special Junior Awards

At the MSRA annual meeting on Monday, May 9, 2005, the following special awards for MSRA juniors were announced:

- Most Improved Girl: Chapin Duke
- Most Improved Boy: Pehlaaj Bajwa
- Sportsmanship, Girl: Corey Schafer
- Sportsmanship, Girl: Hannah Coffin
- Sportsmanship, Boy: Liam Quinn

Adult Tournament Results

A Mature Event
Maugus Club, February 13-14, 2005

Men's 70+

Winner: Lee Engler
Finalist: Thomas Chilton

Men's 60+

Winner: Walter Frazee
Finalist: Steve Steinberg

Men's 50+

Winner: Sam Thayer
Finalist: Tom Quinn

Women's 35+

Winner: Julia Moore
Finalist: Kara Kardon

Adult League Wrapup

Open 5.5

Dave Adams, League Chair

In a stunning display of dominance, the Tennis and Racquet Club defeated the defending champion University Club 4-0 to win the Open 5.5 league this year. In a preview of the MSRA state individual finals, Daniel Sharplin defeated Pat Malloy 3-0. Despite fantastic retrieving from Malloy, Sharplin was simply too strong, imposing his attacking game on the younger Malloy. The #2 match between Jason Hicks and Vineet Asthana began with a seesaw first game that saw both players playing at a tremendous pace. Unfortunately, Jason tweaked his back towards the end of the game and could not stay with Vineet's high pace. Another match to the Tennis & Racquet Club, 3-0.

The #3 match saw an in-form Mike Semprucci take on former state champ and doubles standout Doug Lifford. Mike took the first game as Doug struggled to get loose. The second game was all Lifford, as he worked Mike around the four corners of the court. With the score knotted at one-all, the pivotal third game was tight all the way through. A few untimely tin shots from Lifford and some brilliant retrieving from Semprucci gave Mike game three. While the fourth game was close, Lifford was tiring, and as his shots lost some of their sharpness, Mike began to apply pressure. In the end, Mike defeated Doug 3-1. The #4 match pitted experience versus youth. Scott Poirier took on junior player John Fulham. Poirier's sharp attacking play kept Fulham on the defensive, but the youngster kept getting Scott's best shots back. At 7-all, the fast pace and long points started to show in Poirier's game, and Fulham pulled away 9-7 to win a marathon game. Fulham continued at a breakneck pace through the following two games, and Poirier simply couldn't keep up. The #4 match went to the T&R 3-0.

Outstanding questions for next year: recruiting standout Mike Semprucci will be needing to replace #2 player Vineet Asthana who is moving to New York City in a month, while the UClub is returning all of their players (a year older...), with ever-increasing depth provided by new members Dan Bishop and Andrew Matuch. Will Poirier and Semprucci come to blows over who gets graduating Harvard all star Mike Blumberg, or will he be recruited to help the Harvard Club return to the upper echelons? Lord knows where famed flip-flopper David Adams will end up next year. His school, MIT? Hometown, Concord-Acton? Home club, UClub? Time will tell. Concord-Acton will miss the talents of Dent Wilkens, who is returning to Princeton, but Paul Ansdell's return to the leagues could lessen the blow. MIT needs depth to help keep Ali and Irfan playing at the top of their games, and the Union Boat Club needs to keep Mark Lewis involved to remain in contention. Mo-Squad is a new entry this year and will begin graduating players soon, so their future is up in the air. BSC - Allston, Boston Racquet Club, Sports Club/LA and the Harvard Club all need a strong #1 to make the leap to the next level of play,

while SquashBusters needs more consistent play out of often-injured #1 Parth Doshi.

Team	Points	% Won
Tennis & Racquet	59	84.3%
University Club	57	76.0%
Concord-Acton	43	61.4%
Union Boat Club	43	57.3%
MIT	39	52.0%
BSC - Allston	38	50.7%
Mo Squad	34	45.3%
Boston Racquet Club	29	41.4%
Squashbusters	26	34.7%
Harvard Club	16	22.9%
Sports Club/LA	16	22.9%

Open 4.5

Eric Godes, League Chair

This season's open 4.5 league can be summarized in six simple letters...M-A-U-G-U-S. From start to finish, Maugus dominated the Open 4.5 league like no other team has in recent memory. Even the glory years of Concord-Acton can't compare, as Maugus won an astounding 85% of their individual matches throughout the year. The league knew it was in trouble when former #1 player and captain, Adrian King, was slotted in to the #3 or #4 position. It's no surprise he ran the table finishing with an unblemished 9-0 record for the season.

As most experienced players know, it's depth that usually wins championships in the Open 4.5 league, and Maugus had depth to burn. At no time was it more evident than the finals as Maugus defeated a gutsy bunch from BSC - Allston, with two of their top players, Reese Genser and Eric Godes, out of action. When word spread of these two absences, many interested players around the league expected to see Maugus knocked from their perch. It was not to be, as finals night started off with Maugus super-sub Peter Goodall finishing his undefeated season to get the match off on the right foot for his side. King was up next for Maugus, and he too didn't disappoint. With the momentum on their side, Maugus felt confident going against the Allston twin towers in Firas Khatib and Ken Leng at #1 and #2 respectively. Bob Frazier faced off against Leng and gave him one heck of a battle with Leng prevailing as expected. Going into the #1 match, Maugus iron man Rich Schafer only needed one game to solidify the win. Being a true entertainer, Schafer played with the crowd, dropping the first game before taking the second to the delight of friends and family in attendance. Although Khatib eventually won the match, the party had begun in Wellesley as Maugus completed the destiny that was theirs since early November.

Some great squash was played leading up to the finals, as Allston overtook Boston Racquet Club in one semi-final and Maugus beat BSC - Waltham in the other. BRC was the Cinderella story this year as the early polls had them fighting for a playoff berth. Finishing the regular season in second place was no

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Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

(continued from page 9)

fluke as regulars Hugo, Laurenz, Donahue, Lapham and Reagan proved they could play with the best. On the other side of the ledger, HealthPoint, lead by superstar Kumudu Gunasekera, has been tough for the last few years and this campaign was no exception. Unfortunately for them, Maugus was at their finest that night and only Gunasekera could break through.

In singles action, Boston Racquet's Ethan Hugo met his goal of being crowned state champion by completing an impressive tournament run. Unlike many of the past years, the 2005 state tournament saw virtually all of the state's elite entered, making for a very exciting tournament and making Hugo's victory all the more impressive. The surprise of the tournament was unheralded Bob Frazier who breezed through his draw and scored a major upset by beating Gunasekera in the semi-finals. Hugo ran through Eric Godes in the other semi-final to set the final match. In the end, it was too much Hugo in the finals at Squashbusters, as his 3-0 victory left little doubt that he was indeed the tournament's best. Congratulations Ethan...well done!



The Maugus players pose with the BSC-Allston team after their win in the 4.5 league final.

Team	Points	% Won
Maugus Club	68	85.0%
Boston Racquet Club	54	72.0%
BSC - Allston	53	66.3%
BSC - Waltham	49	65.3%
Concord-Acton	45	64.3%
MIT	45	64.3%
University Club II	35	50.0%
Union Boat Club	33	47.1%
Andover Racquet Club	30	46.2%
Longfellow Sudbury	21	32.3%
Harvard Club	18	27.7%
Harvard Business School	15	23.1%
Sports Club LA	12	18.5%
Tennis & Racquet	11	16.9%
University Club I	0	0.0%

Open 4.0

Kevin Hollister, League Chair

This was the second exciting season for the Open 4.0

league. Eleven clubs fielded a team this season—up from nine in the first year—and while the usual clubs performed well, there were some surprises by the time the playoffs began. A long league season makes for some interesting movements in the team rankings, no doubt due to some demanding training regimens.

BSC - Waltham, a team that did not fare well last year playing with the HealthPoint name, was near the top of the standings all season, but they put together a great run in February and March and ended up ranked #1. Union Boat Club fielded another strong team and ended up in close second, followed closely by MIT in third. Farther back, Concord-Acton nudged out T & R for fourth place and the all-important home court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Rounding out the playoff teams were BRC, Cambridge Racquet and Milton Academy.

The first-round results were the same for BSC - Waltham, Union Boat and Concord-Acton, all winning at home by the score of 4-1. The other home team, MIT, found a more interesting way to win, securing victory not even by winning more games but by eking out a two-point win over visiting Boston Racquet Club.

Apparently, the momentum carried MIT through the semi-finals as they overcame UBC's home court advantage to tie two matches each but win by one game overall. In the other semi-final, Concord-Acton, a loser to BSC at home in the last regular season match, managed to reverse the result playing at BSC, winning only two matches but taking the match on games, nine to seven.

This set up a battle between the #3 and #4 seeds, played at MIT. The advantage appeared to be in favor of Concord-Acton, as the #1 player for MIT was not available. However, the match-ups were to MIT's liking, and they pulled out a hard-fought victory, again winning on games, 9-8. Clearly MIT's three close wins speak to their character as much as their shot-making abilities.

I'd like to thank the team captains for another great season. Their efforts in scheduling players, reporting scores and communicating issues were instrumental in making the 2004–2005 season a great success. I hope to see even more 4.0 teams next year!

2005 Open 4.0 Tournament

Thirty-five players joined the fun in the individual 4.0 championships this year, and once again the results called into question the finely-honed algorithms used to rank the players. That's right, the #1 and #2 seeds were eliminated before the semifinals, but this only proves that squash is much more about the level of play happening on the court than the analysis of historical data used to predict an outcome.

In any case, six of the eight top seeds made it to the quarterfinal round, and the matches only grew tougher. The semifinal matches both featured a player from the 4.0 league

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Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

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playing against an opponent they hadn't met in competition during this season, and in both cases, the league player came out on the short end, with Tom Quinn defeating Frans Kaashoek and Roger Jones winning against Amrit Kanwal.

The stage was set for the finals at SquashBusters; the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation. Several players who had lost in previous rounds came in to Boston to see the battle. Prior to the match, the players were a study in contrasts: Roger was stretching, looking ready for a long battle, while Tom tried to get limber having just left the court in the 55+ final (a long five-gamer at that). Perhaps Tom had hit the wall in terms of stamina, but more likely he hit a steamroller of an opponent—Roger was relentless in his attack and consistent with his shots, pinning Tom in the back corners and giving him few chances to break through. In the end, Roger claimed the hard-fought victory.

Congratulations to all the players who participated and to Roger for a great job in winning it all.

Team	Points	% Won
BSC - Waltham	62	72.9%
Union Boat Club	60	70.6%
MIT	61	67.8%
Concord-Acton	52	65.0%
Tennis & Racquet	44	58.7%
Boston Racquet Club	39	52.0%
Cambridge Racquet	34	48.6%
Milton Academy	34	45.3%
University Club	27	36.0%
Harvard Club	16	21.3%
Harvard Business School	0	0.0%

Open 3.5

Simon Graham, League Chair

The second half of the 3.5 season seemed to be mostly characterized by the weather; once again, it seemed like there was a snow storm every Thursday getting in the way of serious squash! At the end of the regular season, the standings were: Maugus, Concord-Acton, SquashBusters, University Club, BSC - Waltham, and Longfellow.

The quarterfinals and semifinals of the playoffs went with seeding, setting up the final between Concord-Acton and Maugus for the third time this season. Despite Maugus having to play two subs, it was actually a tough and close night that the Concord-Acton team ended up winning to gain the league championship for the second year in a row.

Congratulations to all the players in the league and especially to the CASC and Maugus teams pictured here.

Team	Points	% Won
Maugus Club	67	78.8%
Concord-Acton	63	78.8%
SquashBusters	56	70.0%
University Club	56	70.0%

BSC - Waltham	53	66.3%
Longfellow Club	41	51.3%
Tennis & Racquet	33	41.3%
Cambridge Racquet	24	32.0%
Sports Club/LA	21	28.0%
BSC - Allston	9	12.9%
Harvard Club	6	8.0%



Open 2.5

Carl Cummings, League Chair

It was *plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose* in the Open 2.5 league, as last year's champion Tennis & Racquet, defying the conventional fate of a "rebuilding" team, entered the season with a whole new roster, fought to a second-place finish in the regular season and then upset top-seeded Maugus in the league championship playoff to claim its second con-

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Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

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secutive title. Although Maugus had edged Tennis & Racquet by only three points in the final standings, they had defeated T&R in both regular season matches, and there was good reason to think they would do it again. Maugus captain Richard Houde had assembled a deep and balanced team led by Moshe Selfin, who was 9-0 in regular season play, Tim Driver, who had been 11-4, and Szilvi Szombati, who, playing in both the Open 2.5 and Women's 2.5 leagues, had been undefeated in 25 matches.

The third time was the charm for T&R, however. Captain Matt Sturgis took one for the team, falling to Selfin in straight games, but Matt Semprucci evened matters by handing Szombati her first and only defeat in league play, also in straight games. The closest match was at #3, where Jeff Brown, whose game improved as his weight decreased over the course of the season (and who subsequently won the state 2.5 championship tournament), traded blows (figuratively speaking) with Driver. At the end, it was Brown who was still standing, (8-10), 7, 4, (0), 2. In the #4 match, T&R's Oscar Grossman defeated Maugus's Dani Golan, securing his team's victory over a formidable opponent.

It's probable that several players from each of these teams will be playing at a higher level next season but, as T&R demonstrated, the other teams had better not count on overtaking them while they "rebuild."

Team	Points	% Won
Maugus Club	61	76.3%
Tennis & Racquet Club	58	72.5%
Andover Racquets Club	54	67.5%
Cambridge Racquet	52	65.0%
Boston Racquet Club	51	63.8%
Union Boat Club	45	56.3%
Friends of Millet@Milton	43	53.8%
Concord-Acton	42	52.5%
Longfellow Club	27	36.0%
BSC - Waltham	24	30.0%
University Club	9	11.3%
Sports Club/LA	8	10.7%

Women 3.5

by Kara Kardon, League Chair

You've all heard, "The check is in the mail!" Well, how many of you have heard, "I will only be in Amsterdam for three months!" Well, Ms. Roskoz, the next time, I will be more suspect. We have missed Bry terribly during her almost one-year absence and will welcome her return to our humble city in the Fall.

The 3.5 ladies '05 season was an eventful one, with the University Club taking the championship match on their home court 3-1 against second place Concord-Acton on Wednesday, March 23. Congratulations to team captain, Wendy Irwin, and teammates, Neely Steinberg, Kate Lytle, Meredith Johnson, Liz Steffey and Dianne Smith, who managed to take the title once

again, even without Bry.

The season's newest ladies' 3.5 teams, Sports Club/LA and Tennis & Racquet, finished up the season at 3rd and 4th place respectively, an impressive finish for these two young teams.

With a local venue for USSRA nationals, more of the league's women participated than ever before. 8 players altogether entered a combination of the 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and age group draws, with 5 of the 6 skill level finalists calling Boston home:

- In the 4.5 draw, University Club's Kate Lytle finished as runner up.
- In the 4.0 draw T&R's Leslie Mann defeated U Club's Liz Steffey in the final.
- In the 3.5 draw Maugus' Szilvi Szombati beat Concord's Kara Kardon in the final

Excellent squash, old friends and some new friends combined to make the nationals weekend a particularly memorable one.

Unlike the USSRA tourney, our state tournament integrated the 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 into a single draw. Kate Lytle of the U Club prevailed in four games in the finals over T&R's Leslie Mann. In the consolation final, Tina Wu outplayed Kara Kardon to win the all-Concord-Acton contest.

My thanks to all the team captains and players for a great season—enjoy the summer!

Team	Points	% Won
University Club	55	73.3%
Concord-Acton	52	69.3%
Sports Club LA	36	48.0%
Tennis & Racquet	30	40.0%
Harvard Club	28	37.3%
Boston Sports Club	24	32.0%

Women 2.5A

Phoebe Slanetz, League Chair

The Women's 2.5 league was divided into 2.5A and 2.5B, since the league expanded to 12 teams. The purpose was also to make playing levels more consistent across the league. Both the 2.5A and 2.5B teams from the T&R Club and the 2.5B SportsClub/LA team unfortunately struggled to find enough players each and every week. Depending on how many teams/players enter next season, the Women's 2.5 league may be split into two divisions again or return to one larger league format.

The Maugus Club decisively won the 2.5A league, 4-1 against SquashBusters, holding onto the lead throughout the season. Bernadette Dixon from SquashBusters and Lucy Bradley from Maugus had the most challenging match of the evening, with Bernadette winning the only point for her team. Congratulations to both Maugus and SquashBusters for making it to the finals! In the first week of the playoffs, Maugus won 4-1 against the BSC - Waltham (HealthPoint) team and

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Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

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SquashBusters won 5-0 against Concord-Acton.

Many thanks go out to the Women's 2.5A league captains Dominique Farinaux-Dumas (SquashBusters), Laurie Manos (BSC-Waltham) (HealthPoint), Azi Djazani (Harvard Club), Jennifer Moran (CASC), Kerry Wellington (Maugus) and Willa Rutherford (T&R) for making everything run so smoothly and to the players, for always keeping a healthy balance between competitive play and having fun on and off court. All in all another great season!

Team	Points	% Won
Maugus Club	78	91.8%
SquashBusters	59.5	70.0%
BSC Waltham	38.5	48.1%
Concord Acton	38	47.5%
Harvard Club	17	22.7%
Tennis & Racquet	6	8.0%



Women's 2.5A and 2.5B league chairs Phoebe Slanetz (L) & Virginia Valdez (R) relax between matches at the states.

Women 2.5B

Virginia Valdez, League Chair

Cambridge Racquet won the 2.5B league against the Maugus Club in closely contested matches. Although both teams won two matches each, Cambridge won by one game (Cambridge: 9, Maugus: 8). Both teams had had a great season, showcasing great team spirit, Cambridge in particular, as demonstrated by the whole team's participation in the 2.5 State Championship.

The other two teams in the playoffs were the University Club and BSC - Allston. The University Club lost against Cambridge Racquet and BSC against Maugus. Both teams showed commitment to participating and challenging the other teams in the league throughout the season.

Team	Points	% Won
Cambridge Racquet	63	84.0%
Maugus Club	57	76.0%
BSC Allston	47	62.7%
University Club	34	45.3%
Sports Club/LA	17	22.7%
Tennis & Racquet	4	5.3%



Women's 2.5B League Winners: CRFC: (L-R) Liz Scheinfeldt, Maria Mayorga (capt.), Noreen Ryan, Ania Laver, Terri Sojot. Missing from photo: Maria Pelidis

50 +

Sam Magruder, League Chair

The seven-team 50+ league awarded a BYE to the first-place Boston Racquet Club at the end of the round-robin season and entered everyone else into the first round of the play-offs. The higher seeds all prevailed as Concord-Acton defeated Milton by 4-1, the Harvard Club swept BSC-Waltham and the Union Boat Club squeaked by Maugus 3-2.

The second round featured #3 Harvard Club at #2 Concord-Acton with a rested BRC squad swinging back into action against #4 UBC. For the second straight year, the Harvard Club upset Concord-Acton on their home courts. Led by their new, youngish #1, Dan Reagan, the top three prevailed, with only the soon-to-be State Champion 60+ player, Steve Steinberg, holding off a determined Linton Moulding in 5 games. Playing even with Shef Halsey, Dan won two games before the handicap changes were too much to overcome. Shef took game three at 9 points, but Dan regrouped and won the match at 15-10 in the fourth. Len Miller, giving a point to the very steady Jim Cronin, dropped the first game, before sweeping to victory in four games. The ever-crafty Tom Quinn spotted Wayne Hodges two points at the start, split games one and two and then won by 3-1.

BRC loaded up for the arrival of the Union Boat Club, fielding four players who had lost a total of only four matches all year. At #1, top-ranked Malcolm Davidson administered a polished 3-0 thrashing to an over-matched Bob Loring. # 2 ranked Jon Ross took on a game but still-disabled John C. Smith and came away with a 3-1 victory for the home team. The never-quit-running Everett Shorey played #3 against Andrew St. John. The match went the distance with Everett finally overcoming a fifth game deficit to pull out a scintillating (as reported by the home scribe) victory. The league's top put-away volleyer, Jon Smith, salvaged some honor for UBC, inflicting a season's first loss on the most-improved Ned Brewer, winning a five-game marathon.

This year's finals featured all five of the top-ranked play-

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Adult League Wrapup (cont.)

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BRC capt, Mike McDonald shows off his team's Killer Bees t-shirt.

ers in the league (based on at least six matches). The Harvard Club's winningest players split, but all three of the BRC's ranked players won. The title-winning match was a fifth-game squeaker by the #5 ranked player. Malcolm Davidson took on rookie and 3rd ranked Dan Reagan. The perennial age-group state champion and consensus #1 player this year took the match 3-1, although he lost on total points. The #2 match went the full distance, with Jon Ross pulling out a hard-fought win over Len Miller late in the fifth game. Fourth-ranked Tom Quinn provided HCB's lone win with a 3-1 decision over Tom Mellor. Fresh off his strong showing in the previous week's nationals, Tom's shots were just too tricky for the good-retrieving Mellor to cover.

The deciding match came down to fifth-ranked Digger Donahue over giant-killer Linton Moulding, who provided the fireworks for the defending champions in last year's title match. Down 2-1, and knowing everything depended on him, Linton dug deep and pulled out a fourth-game victory by 15-13, holding off Digger's comeback from 9-3. The fifth game featured seven lead changes, resulting in an 11-all deadlock. A win by the Harvard Club would tie the match on games, and (remember the Reagan "loss"), would have resulted in a win on total points. Digger went up by two before Linton pulled off two spectacular shots to tie the game at 13. Digger, nearly stationary with fatigue, went for broke—a side wall, cross-court volley just above the tin for a service return winner. Match point is another long rally with great gets by both players before Digger's last backhand drive dies in a corner. Perfect length for the season-ending shot.

Team	Points	% Won
Boston Racquet Club	51	72.9%
Concord Acton	45	64.3%
Harvard Club	43	57.3%
Union Boat Club	36	51.4%
Maugus Club	26	40.0%
BSC-Waltham	21	32.3%
Milton	18	27.7%

MSRA Executive Board 2005–2006

The following slate for the MSRA Executive Board for the 2005–2006 season was presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by the membership at the May 9, 2005 annual meeting of the MSRA.

President: Eric Godes

Vice President: Wendy Ansdell

Treasurer: Sam Magruder

Secretary: Sebastian Valdez

Past President: Carl Cummings

Men's League Coordinator: Dave Adams

Women's League Coordinator: Bry Roskoz

Men's Tournament Coordinator: Fran Donlan

Women's Tournament Coordinator: Dominique Farinaux-Dumas

At Large - National Liaison: Jeanne Blasberg

At Large - Rules and Referees: Nat Lovell

At Large - Investments/Finance/Junior Development: Tom Poor

At Large - Investments/Finance: Lenny Bernheimer

At Large - Website: Paul Chastanet

At Large - Newsletter: Sarah Lemaire

At Large - Yearbook: Simon Graham

At Large - College Liaison: Shona Kerr

At Large - Pro Liaison: Paul Ansdell

At Large - League Scheduling/Historical: Linda Watts

Are You Ready for the Howe Cup?

The 2005 Howe Cup will take place at the Ringe Courts at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, on October 28–30. More details will be coming soon, and challenge matches to determine the playing

order will start over the summer. If you're interested in captaining a team or participating as a player, please contact Wendy Ansdell at wendyansdell@mindspring.com.



Men's, Women's, and Junior Champions Graduate to Harvard for Expanded U.S. Open: November 4-8, 2005

After three years of performances at Symphony Hall, the U.S. Open Squash Championships will move to Harvard University's Murr Center this November 4-8, 2005. The prestigious tournament will take advantage of the facility's thirteen glass-back courts and one brand new four-sided glass feature court, while establishing a 700-seat temporary squash arena on the indoor tennis courts within the same building.

According to Tournament Director and Chairman John Nimick, the new venue opens up opportunities for the event. "While Symphony Hall gave the tournament a grand stage, the building's September-only availability and performance-based financial structure always limited our promotional and competitive options," says the veteran squash promoter. He adds, "Harvard offers us the flexibility to move our dates into the squash season and present a much greater range of professional and amateur play. We are thrilled to add a world-ranking WISPA division to complement our core PSA 5-Star tournament and to host what will be one of the USA's most significant junior tournaments at the same time. This year's US Open will be a true Grand Slam squash festival."



The combined professional draws will offer \$70,000 in prize money. The top 24 male squash players from around the globe are expected to compete for the prestigious U.S. Open Championship title, including defending champion and current World #3 Lee Beachill, #1 Thierry Lincou and perennial stars #4 Peter Nicol and #6 Jonathon Power. American junior standout Chris Gordon is expected to compete in the qualifying rounds.

The women's division will feature players ranked in the #10-#30 range and potentially include American stars Latasha Khan and Shabana Khan, as well as up-and-comers Lily Lorentzen, Meredith Quick and Louisa Hall.

The New England Junior Open is expected to attract more than 250 players under the age of nineteen competing in 10 categories. The New England Junior Open is sanctioned by the United States Squash Racquets Association (USSRA) and managed by the Massachusetts Squash Racquets Association Junior Committee in partnership with Event Engine, Inc.



The U.S. Open Men's Squash Championship title is owned by the USSRA and licensed to Event Engine, Inc., which also produces the Tournament of Champions, the Canadian Squash Classic and the British Open Squash Championships.

USSRA CEO Kevin Klipstein applauds the move to Harvard University and the expansion of the tournament and adds, "We think it is very exciting for the US Open to represent all facets of the game. The tennis Grand Slams have shown how vital it is to present together the elite of today and the champions of tomorrow, so it is fitting for the US Open to head in this direction. Squash is growing in the US and showing particular strength in school and college play in the New England area."

Satinder Bajwa, head coach of Men's and Women's Squash at Harvard University looks forward to November's festivities and says, "Harvard was one of the first colleges to build a world-class squash facility, and our plans for a new 250-spectator glass court make it even better. We are delighted to host the US Open here in November and give hundreds of spectators a first look at the new addition. Furthermore, we are thrilled that our facilities, including the use of the indoor tennis courts, enable the Open to include both professional women and juniors. These are two areas the sport needs to concentrate on in order to thrive in the future."

SquashBusters, an inner city development program for less advantaged and at risk children, is the tournament's official charity. SquashBusters provides squash instruction, academic tutoring, mentoring and community service opportunities to more than 100 Boston school children at its eight-court and classroom facility on the campus of Northeastern University. Many SquashBusters' students will compete in the New England Junior Open.



Tournament sponsors for the 2005 U.S. Open Squash Championships are expected to include Lehman Brothers; MARSH; Boston Racquet Club; WBUR 90.9 FM; ClearSource and Dover Rug Company.

CHAMPIONSHIP COURT SCHEDULE:

Friday, November 4 from 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm, Men's First Round.

Saturday, November 5 from 6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., Men's First Round

Sunday, November 6 from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Men's Quarterfinals

Monday, November 7 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Men's & Women's Semifinals

Tuesday, November 8 from 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Men's & Women's Finals

Reserved seat tickets will go on sale in June. Information will be available by calling 877.524.5685 or visiting www.usopensquash.com.

2005 Doubles Results: The Canadians and U.S. Nationals

The MSRA was well represented in these two national tournaments, customarily the high points of the doubles calendar. The large number of players entering these events speaks to the activity and esprit de corps of the many doubles players who play noon, afternoon and evening at both the University and Harvard Clubs.

The **Canadian National Championships** were held March 4–6 in Montreal. Ten players journeyed north to participate in the various age groups. Conspicuous by her absence was **Jessie Chai**, a five-time Open champion who retired last season following her victory in the World championships. Leading the charge were **Sandy Tierney & Derrick Niederman**, newly eligible for the 50s and seeded third. They allowed clubmate **Malcolm Davidson** and Baltimore partner Stan Dorney, winners of the Merion tournament in January, only a handful of points in a quarterfinal match, then breezed past 2nd seeded Murray & Smith of Toronto. In the final, they defeated Aziz Khan of the fabled Khan clan and John Boynton to win their first Canadian title.

It's unusual for teams from the same distant location to meet early in the draw, but this happened in the 60's when **Jim Young** and **Chuck Kelly** drew second-seeded **Tom Poor** and **Lenny Bernheimer** in the quarterfinals. This match was Tom's first since a hip replacement nine months before. Tom and Lenny won in three, then faced Toronto's Cass Quinn & Molson Robertson, winners of two major Canadian events this season. Squeezing out three very close overtime games, the University Club pair moved into the finals to face Tony Swift and Dave Bogert, the team which had defeated them in the 2004 final. Down two games and 12-9 in the third, Tom and Lenny somehow won the next six points and the next two games to collect their 7th Canadian title.

In the 70's, **Joel Kozol** formed a new partnership with Philadelphia's Charlie Stehle and as the second seeds, played **Lee Spelke & Hank Shaw** in the preliminary round robin. Winning in three, they earned a spot in the finals against the top seeded team of Rober and Logie. Strong gallery support from the Boston contingent was not enough as the Canadians won in three.

Four weeks later, the **U.S. National Championships** were hosted by New York, the site of the 2002 event, but returning in such a short time in an effort to draw many of the young players in the area. That plan was successful, as close to 300 players, including 20 from the MSRA, entered in 12 draws. The event was spread between five clubs, since each club had only one doubles court. However, all players and guests convened on Saturday evening for a delicious buffet dinner at the University Club.

Berkeley Revenaugh and **Mary McKee**, better known as the Belknap twins in squash circles, won two matches to reach the finals of the Women's Open. There they lost a heartbreaker by two points in the fifth to many-time champion Alicia McConnell, a coach at the Olympic Training Site in Colorado Springs, and Poochie Holderfer, a Colombian native who learned doubles at a community court. **Sarah West** from Dartmouth was 2nd seeded with partner Katherine Giese of Philadelphia, but was upset in the semi-finals of the "A" draw.

The Men's Open draw featured mostly professionals. **Doug Lifford** and **Pat Malloy**, Boston's ranking professional tandem, lost in the quarters to a New York team that was destined for the finals. Also in the Open draw was **Ross Revenaugh**, who teamed with Toronto's Tyler Millard, losing in the opening round to the second seed. **Nick Barquin** and New York's Mike Sabatine won a round in the brutal "A" 28-team draw. In the 45's, **John Nimick** was seeded second with top Canadian Jay Gillespie. They reached the finals where professional Todd Binns (Denver) and his St. Louis partner bested them in four games.

Sandy & Derrick, on the strength of their Canadian victory and their stature as 45's champion in last year's Chicago tournament, were seeded 1st in the 50's. They cruised to the finals where, ironically, they met **Davidson & Dorney**, their quarterfinal victims in the Canadians. The latter had edged Murray & Smith, who a round before had shut out **Mat Sibble** and his Canadian partner, in five very close games to make the final round. Alas, the result was the same as Sandy & Derrick won the tournament without the loss of a game for their second U.S. title. Our lone representative in the 55's, **Ed Serues**, paired with former Bostonian Jay Umans to win a round before losing in the quarters.

Poor & Bernheimer were also seeded 1st in the 60's. They advanced with minor difficulties to the finals where the Quinn-Robertson team awaited. The Canadians directed as many balls as possible to Lenny who, after three days of practice upon his return from Florida, made them pay dearly and led the way to a four game victory and their 9th U.S. title. In the 70's, **Kozol & Stehle** lost in the semis to the eventual champions from New York, Leonard & Hill, who defeated **Spelke & Shaw** in the opening round.

MSRA State Doubles Champions

135 players entered in seven divisions of the state doubles championships. The finals were played on Monday, May 9 at the University Club. Here are the results:

A: Chris Spahr & Will Broadbent def. Doug Lifford & Jamie Fagan: (15-16), 9, 9, (6), 8

B: Josh Greenhill & Nick Barquin def. Rob Dewees & John Palfrey: (6), 13, (10), 17-14, 9

C: Bob Frazier & Phil McComb def. Matthew Kozol and Joel Kozol: 13, 10, 12

50's: Malcolm Davidson & Jon Ross def. Tom Poor & Len Bernheimer: 12, 12, 16-15

60's: Jim Young & Joel Kozol def. Tom Poor & Peter Laird: 13, (14), 9, 12

Mixed: Berkeley & Ross Revenaugh def. Mary McKee & Doug Lifford: 12, (8), 8, (7), 18-14

Women's: Berkeley Revenaugh & Mary McKee def. Dianne Smith & Hope Crosier: 8, 16-14, 5

MSRA President's Award: Eric Cutler

The MSRA President's Award is made in recognition of service to the MSRA and the squash community at large. For 2005, this award was given to Eric Cutler.

Eric graduated in 1940 from Harvard, where he had been a championship intercollegiate swimmer. After serving in World War II and working in private industry, he returned to Harvard, where he served as Assistant Director of Admissions for several years and then as Assistant Director of Athletics for many years. A colleague in the Admissions Office introduced him to squash and he has been a dedicated enthusiast ever since.

At Harvard, he coached the junior varsity team for many years and the women's team for a short while. There is reason to believe that, given his roles in the Admissions and Athletics departments and his love of squash, he was responsible for providing many of the great squash players that made Harvard the dominant intercollegiate squash power of the '60s, '70s, and 80s.

Eric is a life member of both the MSRA and the USSRA. He chaired the MSRA C league (or 3.5 league, as the digerati would now refer to it) for many years and served as a team captain in the league. He was a long-time patron of the Boston Open. After retiring from Harvard, he helped coach squash at Nobles & Greenough School when that school's program was just getting off the ground.

Eric's most recent contributions to squash may have been his most important. He has been a major supporter of SquashBusters, as a significant contributor first to its Building Campaign and then to its Endowment Campaign. SquashBusters offers opportunity not just to its students but, by introducing squash where it would not otherwise be seen, opportunity for the game itself to grow. A contribution to SquashBusters benefits all of us who love the game.

Eric Cutler is a gentleman who has been a staunch and generous supporter of squash at every level and in every way for over 50 years. The MSRA is very pleased to recognize him with the MSRA's President's Award for 2005.



Outgoing MSRA president Carl Cummings (center) poses with President's Award winner Eric Cutler (L) and his wife, Nancy.

Wellesley Wins the Chaffee Award

by Erin Hurson & Wenjun Jing, Wellesley squash team co-captains



The Clarence C. Chaffee award is given to the college coach whose team has demonstrated the qualities of competitiveness and court demeanor that characterized Clarence C. Chaffee. In the words of Jack Barnaby, Harvard coach and longtime friend and colleague, "If ever I had a favorite amongst my rival coaches it had to be 'Chafe.' He exemplified that now disappearing type: the gentleman sportsman. Soccer, tennis, squash, skiing—you name it, Chafe was good at it and reveled in it. His love of competition, his unflinching sense of fair play, and the values he and his wife exemplified to all his players made him such a beloved coach that his fame went far and wide and still flourishes today. I know I speak for all the coaches of his era when I pay him tribute: we loved him, too."

Donated by the Williams women's squash team and voted by the coaches of member institutions, this award is given to the coach whose team has demonstrated the qualities of competitiveness and court demeanor that characterized Clarence C. Chaffee: sportsmanship, teamwork, character, and improvement. It began in 1987.

This past February, coach Shona Kerr of the Wellesley College squash team (and MSRA board member) was honored with the Clarence C. Chaffee Award at the 2004–2005 Women's National Squash Championships.

The Wellesley College squash team started the 2004–2005 season with a mix of seasoned veterans and many new players. The team bonded quickly, stressing unity and camaraderie from the very beginning. Despite roster fluctuations and many close losses throughout the season, the team never failed to maintain an optimistic and positive attitude. The Chaffee Award recognizes the team's dedication to the sport, respect for their opponents, and the ethics of squash. Well(esley) done!

In addition to the Chaffee Award, Shona won the Women's 5.0 draw and Under 35 draws at the USSRA championships, which took place in Boston in March. Wellesley's assistant coach, Szilvi Szombati, won the Women's 3.5 draw at the nationals.

2005 Ellen Borie Trophy: Dominique Farinaux-Dumas

The Ellen Borie trophy is awarded each year by the MSRA to an individual who has made significant contributions to women's squash and the Massachusetts squash community. Ellen Borie was a graduate student in mathematics at Harvard and had great squash potential when she was killed in a car accident in 1970 after being on the Boston squash scene for only a year and a half. In 1971 an award was named in her honor for the good sportsmanship, potential and spirit she exhibited.

The recipient of this year's Ellen Borie Trophy is Dominique Farinaux-Dumas. Although Dominique has contributed a lot to the game of squash, it is the spirit and enthusiasm that she displays about the game of squash that makes her truly stand out. Many of her teammates and compatriots in the Women's 2.5 leagues were at the MSRA annual meeting to celebrate Dominique's award.

Dominique has certainly contributed a lot to squash in Massachusetts:

- Captain of the Boston C Howe Cup teams the last 5+ years, including organizing it from Berlin last summer
- Captain of her league team the last 5+ years, first for Cambridge Racquet and now for Squashbusters
- Plays in every tournament in the Boston area
- Volunteers for Squashbusters (and now just starting to work there as well)
- Volunteers at a variety of other squash events

However, it is Dominique's spirit and enthusiasm that are contagious and make her truly stand out. In fact, each of the last four years this award has been given Dominique has been a nominee. Here is what fellow squash players say about Dominique:

- "When Dominique started captaining the Cambridge Racquet C team, we talked on the phone every day. The day of the match we'd talk more than once. The day after the match, 3 or 4 times depending on who won. She knew all of the league stats. She knew who was ahead and by how many points. On the day of our match she'd worry about everyone getting to the club on time. Dominique didn't relax until we were all there, ready to play. No, she wouldn't relax until we had all played our matches. No, she'd only relax when we'd all go out for something to eat after the match. No, not really even then. Because there was next week to start thinking about. That intensity for the game and concern for the players went beyond our little team in Cambridge."
- "I can't think of anyone who loves squash more. Once Dominique told me that if she could choose what she'd be in a 2nd life, it would be to play professional squash. And while the pro tour might not be in her future (at least in this life) that does nothing to curb her enthusiasm for the sport."
- "You really get a sense of how everyone loves Dominique when you have to play against her in a tournament. Everyone is routing for her and that includes her opponent!"
- "Dominique chases everything down, literally and metaphorically. She even runs back to the service box after a grueling point and as she runs back to the service box, she apologizes for having won the point!!! It's hard not to love someone with that much energy, is disarmingly polite and self effacing."
- "She introduced me to just about every woman who plays squash in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore . . . she knows everyone and remembers their names. She remembers who played who in what tournament, who won and why. More significant is that EVERYONE knows Dominique and in all of these years, I have only heard people say positive things about Dominique."
- "Dominique is the ultimate squash groupie! She's such a lush when it comes to PSA players - especially Thierry Lincou! And, when there was a top Belgian player, well, she was quite giddy!!"
- Squash is also how Dominique met her husband, Stephane: "Dominique and I started to date through squash. We met once at her uncle's and she contacted me a few months later to replace her squash partner during his summer vacation. (She found my phone number in my advisor's address book while his family was attending Mass!) We played squash. Dominique was very nervous and I did not understand much of what she was saying during the game. We went for a drink and then I proposed to play again the following week. After few weeks, I inquired about her squash partner because I thought that his vacation was very long even by European standards. She called me a name (va-nu-pieds to be precise) and I realized the partner did not exist. This was 15 years ago. We have always played together since."
- And the following remark probably sums it up best: "I know that I am not alone in believing that because of Dominique, some of us care a little bit more about winning our squash matches. But more importantly, *definitely* because of Dominique all of us in Boston are a closer squash community."

Thanks to Dominique for all of her contributions to Massachusetts squash!



Ellen Borie Trophy winner Dominique Farinaux-Dumas celebrates with her SquashBusters teammates (L-R) Melissa London, Liz Lambert, Suzi Melotti, and Bernadette Dixon at the MSRA Annual Meeting.

Chris Smith Appointed US Junior Men's Nat'l Team Coach

The USSRA is proud to announce Chris Smith as the new Head Coach of the US Junior Men's National Team. Chris served the past two years as the Assistant Coach of the team, helping coach the top players in the country through local, national, and international competitions. Chris also organized and coached the team at the US Junior Olympics, the Scottish Open, British Open, German Open, Dutch Open, the US National Championships, Team Trials, and organized various training weekends throughout the year for the team. All of these events led up to the 13th World Junior Men's Team and Individual Championships, which took place in Islamabad, Pakistan. Coach Smith helped lead the US Team to a 14th place finish in the Team World Event.

After returning from Pakistan, Chris went right to work with the next crop of junior players eligible for the World Championships in Palmerston North, New Zealand in July of 2006. Chris has worked on a two-year plan for training and preparation as well as the team selection process for the 12+ candidates for Team USA for 2006. Chris has three fundraising events planned to help the team get to New Zealand; a dinner gala, a two-day squash round robin and golf outing event, and a sports memorabilia auction. Chris has quickly been able to create a very high level of character and togetherness within the team. Combine Chris' leadership with the hard work that each of the players put into their game every day, and you have the formula for what hopes to be Team USA's best finish ever in the World Championships.

Chris is a native of Newport RI and a graduate of Tabor Academy. He was a four-year letter winner at Hobart College, where he compiled a 47-26 individual record and captained the team his senior year. Chris is currently the Director of Squash Programs at SquashBusters. He is passionate about growing the game of squash and is a wonderful ambassador for the game.



Chris Smith (second from left) with one of the SquashBusters BU15 teams at the Urban Team Nationals in April.



2005 50+ State Doubles:
Finalists: Tom Poor & Lenny Bernheimer
Champions: Malcolm Davidson & Jon Ross



2005 State Mixed Doubles:
Champions: Berkeley Revenaugh & Ross Revenaugh
Finalists: Mary McKee & Doug Lifford



Carl Cummings (L) handed over the reins of the MSRA presidency to Eric Godes at the MSRA Annual Meeting.

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