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SQUASH LIFE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1989

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Guaranty Trust Canadian Women's Open
Troubles and Doubles At Ontario Mixed!*

DEPARTMENTS

*Editorial
The Faces of Squash
International Scene
What's New In Squash
Club Focus*



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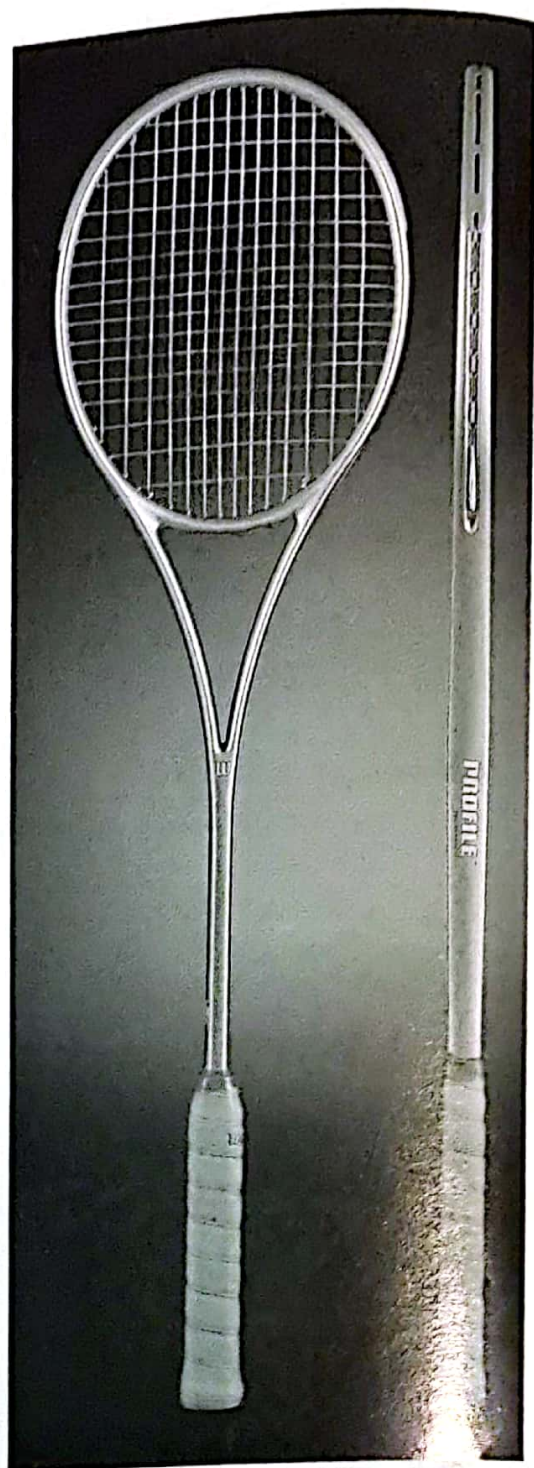
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WINTARIO-SAME NAME...NEW RULES!

By Sherry Funston

Lotteries! Every week, hundreds of thousands of Ontarians purchase lottery tickets with the hope of hitting it big. With so many games of chance, many are called but few are chosen. The odds of winning are astronomical and yet, the buying goes on.

The Ontario government knew, when it initiated the lotteries, that some people might object that it was exploiting the dreams of the poor and endorsing what amounted to a regressive tax. The legislature of the day wrote into the law that the net profits from its lotteries would be used for goods works - "the promotion and development of physical fitness, sports, recreational and cultural activities and facilities".

We in sport have no illusions as to why people buy lottery tickets. Certainly it is not with a conscious desire to help raise funds for squash or wrestling or curling. No, they buy tickets to win. However, in so doing, people have, over the years, aided the cause of development of sports, recreation and culture. Most people do not view lotteries as a tax - they buy tickets out of choice and if it does some good for their health and the health of all Ontarians, then, where is the harm?

Many recreational facilities have been built all over the province with the help of lottery funds, budding talents in the fields of culture have been helped to achieve their potential through the help of lottery funds and many aspiring Ontario athletes have been given a chance to compete against the world's best because of lottery funds.

In the 1988 Ontario Budget, Treasurer Robert Nixon announced that provincial spending for the operation of hospitals would be made eligible for lottery funding. As a result, the existing lottery dedication, consisting of recreation, culture and fitness activities, will be expanded to include these new purposes with the approval of the Legislature. In a letter from Mr. Nixon, he states that, "....the proposed amendment to the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act will not jeopardize provincial spending on recreation and culture programmes." Should we breathe a sigh of relief? Not on your life.

In recent meetings and negotiations with consultants from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, sports were advised that new funding criteria had been established for the category of 'Championship Travel', otherwise known as Wintario. Stricter guidelines

have now been set in terms of travel which, for squash, have enormous ramifications. As well, newer and more stringent definitions of international events have now eliminated any funding for United States Championships in squash. As of April 1, 1989, juniors who have traditionally competed in the U.S. Junior Championships will have to do so on their own hook and Gerry Shuger, you can go on and win as many U.S. titles as you can but all Ontario has for you is a sport award certificate and a polite handshake.

The whole direction and flavour of 'Wintario' seems to have changed. In the past, these funds were also made available to Ontario athletes who wished to compete in national events. On many occasions, we have

sent 30 or 40 players to the Canadian Closed and the Canadian Junior Championships. The extent of participation will now be limited to the top four players in each category who do not receive funding from Squash Canada. Where we have sent 10 players to the Canadian Closed, we will now be able to

send only four. If you are not ranked in the top eight in Ontario, you can forget any help in the way of funding and this will severely hamper our efforts to develop our own rising stars. One of the Ministry consultants was quoted as saying that the idea behind these new guidelines is to limit the number of events and participants. So much for Mr. Nixon's assurances that the proposed amendment will not jeopardize provincial spending on recreation and culture programmes.

No sensible person would argue that hospitals do not need funding but should that funding depend in any way upon the vagaries of lottery profits? Hospitals are already the recipients of some the profits from inter-provincial lotteries which are twice the provincial profits. Why take Wintario too?

Mr. Nixon's bill 119 is retrogressive and will probably do more harm than good for health in this province. Many people believe that Ontario's profits from beer and liquor should be used to combat alcohol abuse. Why not lotteries to keep people out of hospitals? "Best Ever" performances come from hard work, talent, dedication and dollars. You can't have it both ways.○

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Ontario Declares Her Best!

Pimm and Weithers Take Closed Titles

By Keith Durling

The Ontario Closed Championships serve a dual purpose. Not only do they proclaim the best squash players in this province, but they are also used for selection purposes for the two Ontario Teams which will represent us in the National Team Championships. Consequently, the entries for the tournament were many and the quality, exceptional. When the 'bell' rang to close off the entries, 36 men and 12 women were set to go after the much coveted title of Ontario Champion. Both Squash Ontario and I were extremely pleased with the size of

the draws and a hearty thank you goes out to all players for making this event one of the largest fields ever.

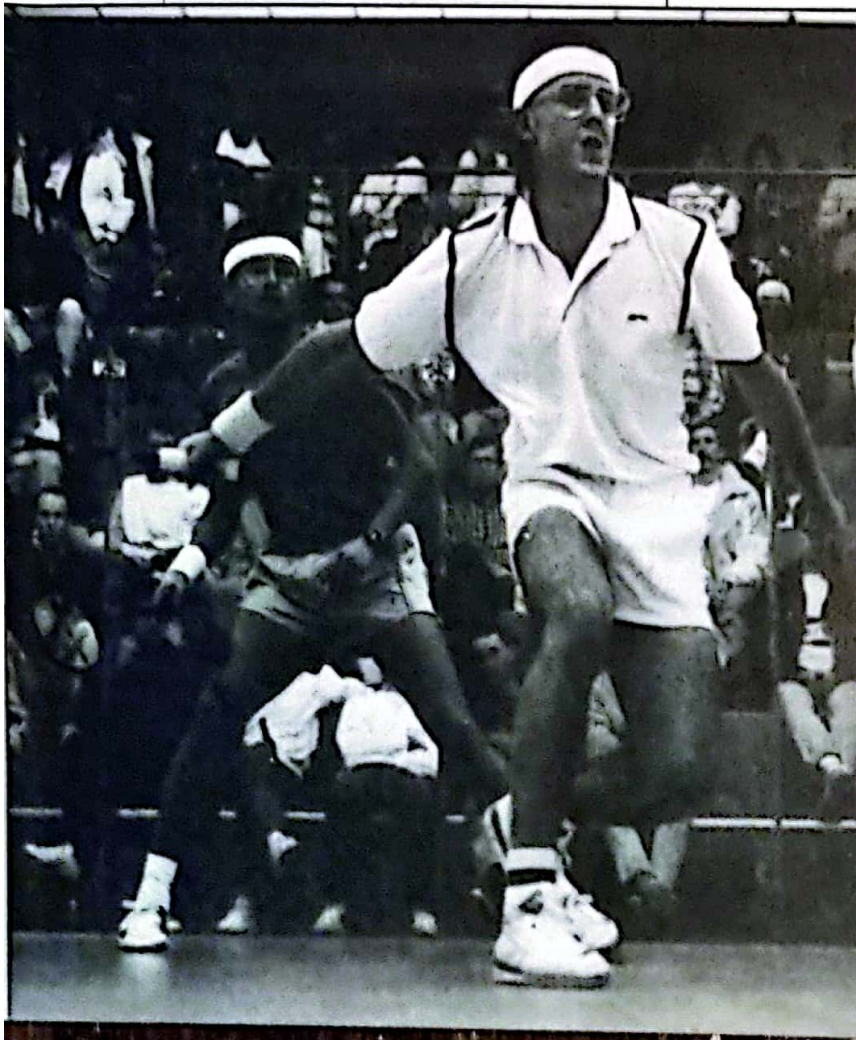
This year's event was held at the newly refurbished and redecorated Regency Racquets Club. Situated in the ever-expanding Brampton/Bramalea area, it was a venue with lots to do inside the club as well as outside when players were between matches.

Holiday Inn was the host hotel and, as usual, did a superb job of putting tired bodies to bed. Black Knight once again was a tremendous sponsor and supporter....more about prizes later.

With the size of the draws, matches got underway early on the Friday evening. With no major surprises in the first round except for some unscheduled 5 game matches, the evening lasted until around 11:30 P.M. which wasn't bad for the first night of a major tournament. More importantly though was the fact that the players didn't seem to mind. You'd think, with some players having to play two matches on the first night and others who had endured some pretty tough 5 game matches, that there would be a lot of tired bodies aching to crawl into bed. Not so-it was time to party-Regency was hopping until well after 1:00 A.M.

Saturday morning came all too early for some. This day would see some excellent squash. The men's round of 16 and the women's quarter

A tired Steve Wren (in foreground) just couldn't find the legs he needed to defend his title. He closed.





Lori Coleman

finals were scheduled and many of the spectators were waiting to see whether the powers that be had correctly designated the seedings. Max Weithers was seeded #1, Steve Wren at #2, Ric

Hartunian at #3 and the perennial favourite, John Frederick was seeded #4. In the women's event, Canada's #2 player Gail Pimm was seeded at 1, Lori Coleman at #2, Shelley Harvey and #3 and Wendy Wontner #4.

There were no real surprises but a couple of matches to note. Cathy Covernton and Shelley Harvey faced off in one of the quarter finals. A very determined Covernton won the first game convincingly over her friend and colleague. The first upset, you might say. Not according to Shelley who gathered her forces and roared back to take the next three games and earn a place in the semi finals. The match between Eric Cole and Steve Eastwood was just excellent. Eric was steady throughout while Eastwood showed flashes of brilliance, coupled, unfortunately, with some very erratic play. The crowd loved the long rallies and



Gail Pimm

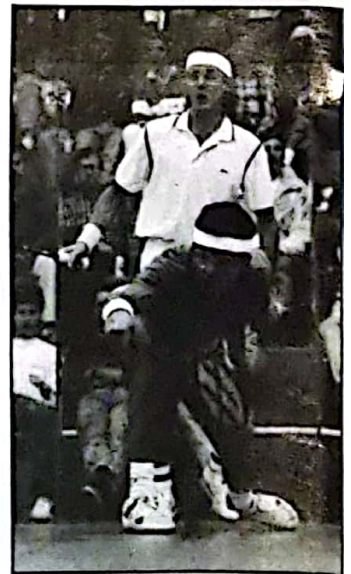
great returns. In the end, Eric pulled the match out with a 3-2 win after about 85 minutes. If Eric thought he was tired after this match, it was nothing compared to how he felt after his

quarter final match against John Frederick. When the match was tied 1-1 after an hour, Eric (and everyone else) knew he'd be there for a while. It was vintage Frederick - lounging and diving for balls, unbelievable gets and, of course, no Frederick match would be complete without the bleeding knees. Eric's steady play won the day but he was to pay the price of these tough two matches on Sunday.

The women's semi final matches went exactly according to seed with Gail sweeping past Wendy Wontner and Lori Coleman finessing her way past Shelley Harvey. The men's semi final match of note was between two

of the Curzon boys - Steve Wren and a much improved Ric Hartunian. Ric extended the popular Wren to five games before Steve's discipline and experience took control and the match.

The Women's Ontario Closed Championship match was a contrast in styles. Gail's experience, her court savvy and her power were just too much for the graceful lobbs and drops of Lori Coleman. It served to emphasize the very large gap between #2 and the next five or six. Gail had a very easy time of it, winning in 3 quite quick



The gallery was standing room only for the Max Weithers/Steve Wren encounter. Steve's tough run against Ric Hartunian in the semi left him a little flat and tired. Max, on

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other hand, was fresh and he seems to cover every inch of the court with one easy step. Max prevailed 3-0 but the match was really much closer than the score would indicate.

During the presentations, the top three performances in each event were presented with Ontario team invitations for the 1989 event. Tournament winners were also given pewter mugs along with Black Knight running jackets.

To administrate an event of this size requires great volunteers. Norma Graham, Ontario's Referee-in-Chief, did a superb job, keeping the matches running smoothly. Without her help, the event certainly wouldn't have run as well. A special thanks to Eric Davis, Nina Girard and Harvey Boutilier for cheerfully checking people in and answering the many questions fired at them over the weekend. Thanks also to the Regency club and its members for both providing an excellent venue and extra bodies for refereeing those first round matches.○

BLACK KNIGHT SPECIAL EDITION RACQUET

The Canadian Squash Racquets Association has introduced a special edition racquet to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the association. The racquet is produced by Black Knight Enterprises Ltd and monies from the sale of these special edition racquets go back into supporting squash in Canada.

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DEBTOR'S PRISON
(9" x 12")

The first game of racquets was played against a single wall within the Debtor's Prisons of England prior to 1800. The most famous Debtor's Prison was the "Fleet" referred to by Charles Dickens in the "Pickwick Papers".



RACQUETS-A GAME FOR EX-ATHLETES (12" x 16")

The English game of racquets made its way to New York as early as 1793 and maintained a feeble and fitful existence until more than a 100 years later when the New York Racquet Club gave it a permanent home. This print depicts the clothing of the period and a player in various positions of readiness to serve and receive the serve.

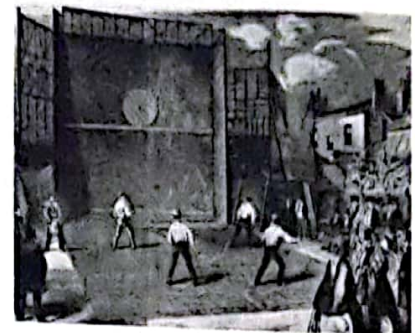


SQUASH RACQUETS AT HARROW
(9" x 12")

The Harrow School in England is credited with the invention of the game of squash racquets. In the late 1800's, while waiting to enter the hard racquets court, the boys playing in the courtyard of the Headmaster's house invented a soft "squashy" ball to avoid breaking windows.

THE BELVEDERE RACQUETS COURT
(16" x 12")

The single wall version of racquets quickly expanded outside of the Debtor's Prison and was most popular in the early 1800's in Ireland. This print depicts a 45' high wall and four men are playing within a designated area 45' x 60' long.



THE CHAMPIONSHIP COURT OF THE NEW YORK RACQUET CLUB
(12" x 9")

By the early part of this century, racquets and squash racquets were becoming firmly established as the excellent games they are now known to be. This print illustrates active play being observed by several interested observers in the gallery.



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ALL DRESSED UP WITH SOME PLACE TO GO!

The Ontario Closed Championships serve a dual purpose. Not only do they declare Ontario's best but they are also used to select our teams who will represent this province in the National Inter-Provincial Team Championships. The competition for a spot on the teams was fierce this year, particularly in the men's division. But, as sport is meant to do, the best won out and consequently, Ontario will be sending two very strong teams to the inter-provincials.

The 1989 Ontario Women's Team will be comprised of Gail Pimm, playing at number 1, Lori Coleman at #2 and Shelley Harvey at #3. Ontario is the defending champion, having captured the coveted Waterford title for the past three years. The team will be travelling to Vancouver on the weekend of January 27 - 29, 1989.

The 1989 Ontario Men's Team will be comprised of Max Weithers, playing at number 1, Steve Wren at

#2 and Ric Hartunian at #3. All three gentlemen, by the way, play out of the Curzons Sporting Club in Etobicoke. Last year, Ontario's team placed fourth, finishing behind British Columbia, Alberta

and Manitoba respectively. We expect to give the west a run for its money this year. The team will be travelling to the cold and windy corner of Portage and Main in Win-



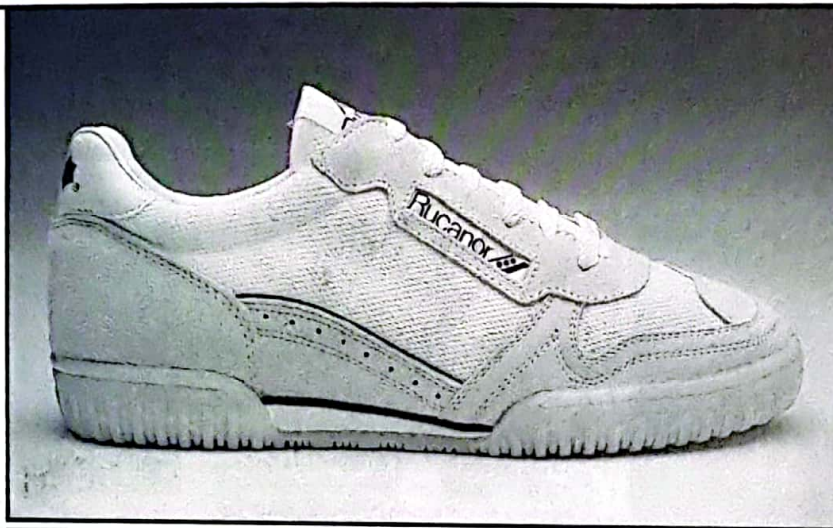
Back row: Gail Pimm, Shelley Harvey, Lori Coleman. Front: Steve Wren, Max Weithers, Ric Hartunian

nipeg on the weekend of January 27 - 29, 1989.

This year, our teams are being sponsored by Weithers Enterprises Inc., the Canadian distributor of A. Henkel sports articles. The German made clothing is excellent with wonderful, vivid colours and we would like to thank Weithers Enterprises publicly for its support of Ontario. Unfortunately, the women will be playing at the Jericho Tennis Club which has an all whites

ruling. However, the Henkel line also produces some beautiful clothing in whites.

We wish the teams all the bestbring home the hardware! O



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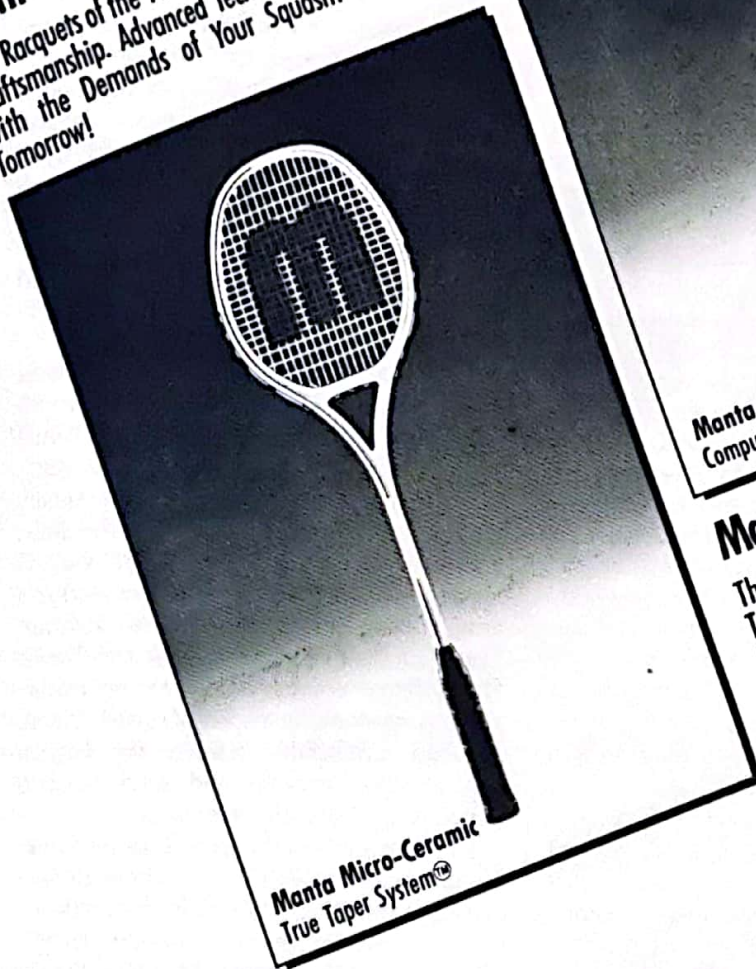
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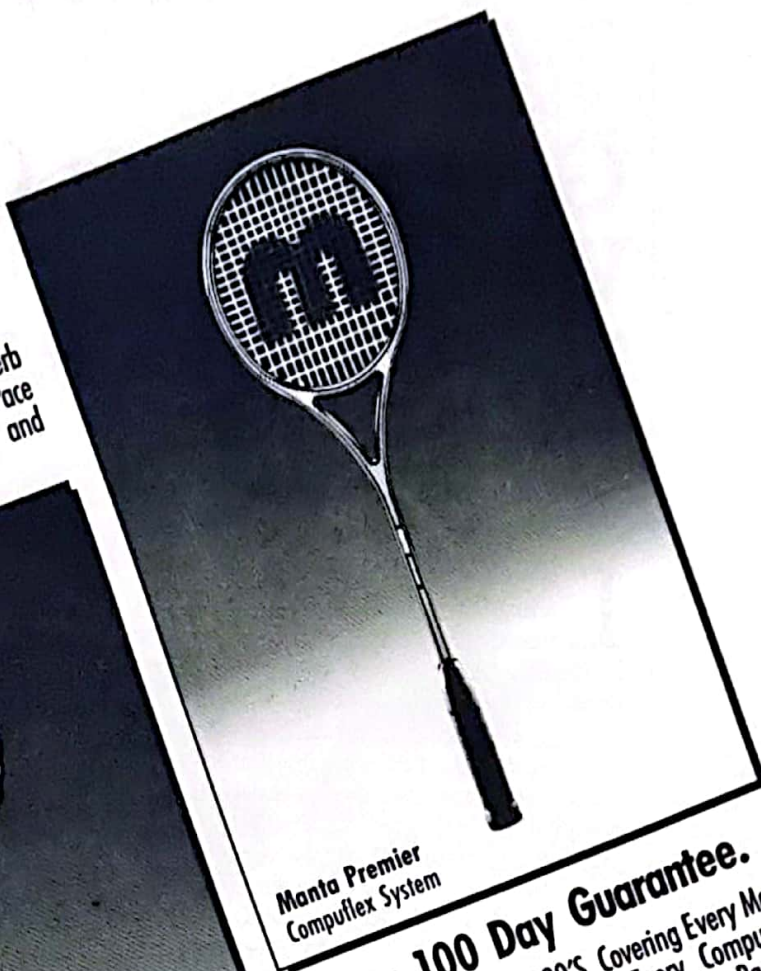
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Guaranty Trust Canadian Women's Open

Lisa Opie Captures Title

By Alan Smith

Lisa Opie, of England, snatched the Canadian title away from three time winner Martine LeMoignan at the 1988 Guaranty Trust Canadian Women's Open Squash Championships, October 20-23, at the Harbour Club in Belleville, Ontario. Opie earned the title in a hard fought 3-1 final against Robyn Lambourne of Australia. Opie's win completed a successful two week stint on her first visit to Canada since 1981. She captured the Raywall Construction Women's International the previous weekend in Edmonton, Alberta with a 3-0 win over LeMoignan in the final. The two victories are expected to elevate her back to second spot in the world rankings behind perennial #1 Susan Devoy of New Zealand.

The 1988 Canadian Women's Open featured the strongest field in the four year history of the event. Ten of the top fifteen players in the world rankings. The 24 players in the main draw were playing for a total of \$10,000.

Second round play provided even fewer surprises as the top seeds generally proved much too strong for their challengers. Only rapidly improving Danielle Drady, seeded 9th, succeeded in overcoming a higher seed as she overwhelmed Canadian champion Heather Wallace 9/3, 9/2, 9/7. The quarter finals, on Friday evening, involved eight of the top twelve players in the world and looked promising to provide some exceptional battles. It was not to be.

Defending champion LeMoignan had surprising little trouble with World Junior champion Sarah Fitzgerald (Australia) winning 9/5, 9/1, 9/7, in just over 30 minutes. Alison Cumings (England), playing in her first tournament since the British Open, did not appear match fit and was disposed of handily by Robyn Lambourne (Australia) 9/4, 9/5, 9/0, in 35 minutes. Lambourne looked very strong and well prepared for her first visit to the Canadian Open. Danielle Drady continued her steady and aggressive

play to upset world #4 Lucy Soutter (England), 9/3, 9/2, 9/7. Soutter was not up to the attacking style of Drady and looked off form due to the lack of competition and a persistent foot injury. In the only close match of the evening, #2 seed Lisa Opie was pushed hard by one of the rising Australian stars, Michelle Martin, before her greater experience and superb shot-making allowed her to squeak out a 9/5, 9/6, 4/9, 9/7 victory.

In the Special Plate, for second round losers, Heather Wallace reached the final with little opposition after Finnish player Tuula Myllyniemi had to pull out because of injury. Fiona Geaves from England had an equally easy path to the final in her half of the draw. The final was closely contested with Geaves coming back from a 1-2 deficit to subdue a tiring Wallace in a match lasting over an hour. Australian Sarah Fitzgerald took the Classic Plate 3-0 over countrywomen Michelle Martin in an entertaining display of squash. These two had comfortably defeated the English pair, Alison Cumings and Lucy Soutter respectively, 3-0 in the semifinals.

In the main draw the semi-finals on Saturday afternoon provided the excitement that had been widely anticipated in this confrontation of top international players. In the opening match, young Danielle Drady looked nervous as she took on the veteran Opie. In the first two games Opie established total control of the pace with her well disguised mix of lobs, drops and boasts to take a quick 2-0 lead in just 16 minutes. With the help of some coaching from her Australian teammates, Danielle managed to settle down and change her tactics in the third game. Putting on more pressure with tight shots to length, mixed with superb drop shots, along with some mental lapses by Opie, led to a quick turnaround and a 9/1 win by Drady in just 5 minutes. The fourth game featured more of Drady's aggressive volleying and very confident play, while Opie began to look shaky and lose her concentration repeatedly, leading to a 9/3 win for Danielle to tie the

match after 40 minutes of play. The fifth game was a classic. Drady continued to pressure Opie and control the play to take an early 4-1 lead. Opie fought back to a 4-4 tie and then Drady went ahead again 6-4. At that point Opie seemed to find some inner reserve of strength, pulled her game together and gained back control of the pace finally taking the game and match 9-6 on a controversial no let call against Danielle. Lisa Opie had reached the final in just over an hour of excellent squash 9/1, 9/3, 1/9, 3/9, 9/6.

The second semi-final featured defending champion Martine Le-Moignan against hard hitting Robyn Lambourne. The contrast in style from the previous match was immediately apparent as both players came out attacking with their powerful drives and volleys. In the early stages, control was not a factor as each tried to overpower the other. The first game went to Martine 9/2 in short order as Robyn made numerous errors. In the second game Lambourne seemed to adjust to the pace of the ball with better length and tighter shots to take the game 9/4 in 15 minutes. The lead changed hands several times until at 7-5 in the third for Martine, she seemed to become rattled and Robyn ran off four quick points to take a 2-1 game lead after 40 minutes of play. Martine regained her composure in the fourth and jumped to a quick 7-1 lead and then held off a comeback attempt to tie the match at 2-2. The fifth started out with several exchanges of serve with no player showing signs of taking control until, at 2-2, Lambourne scored three successive points. That was all the lead she needed as her determination carried her through to a 9-3 victory to take the match in one hour and five minutes of exciting and exhausting squash.

The stage was set for a rematch of the semifinal battle from the previous weekend when Lisa had worn Robyn down to take the match in the fifth. The final lived up to expectations. The players fought to dictate the pace; Lambourne with her hard hitting attacking style, Opie with her soft lobs, delicate drops and precision boasts. Although Robyn was able to set the pace initially and take a 3-2 lead, Lisa was able to slow it down and go ahead 5-4 before having one of her mental lapses and losing five quick

points and the game to Lambourne after 14 minutes. The second game featured lots of fast action as Opie seemed to abandon her lob game. Surprisingly the change benefitted Lisa more than Robyn and she quickly took a 7-2 lead before suffering another loss of concentration and making several unforced errors to bring the game to 7-6 before recovering to tie the match. The third game began with Opie dictating a slow pace and she took an early 4-0 lead thanks to a couple of unforced errors by Lambourne. Robyn managed to fight her way back with excellent retrieving and then go ahead 6-4 on two unforced errors by Lisa. With both

players obviously tiring, errors became more predominant. Opie fought back to a tie and then gave another point to put Lambourne up 7-6. At 7-7 Lisa got a lucky break on a bounce, went ahead 8-7 and closed out the game 9-7. In the fourth Opie's superior shot-making was too much for the exhausted Lambourne. Lisa repeatedly stretched Robyn with soft drops and fine boasts to take a 7-1 lead. Although Robyn fought valiantly and Lisa contributed several more unforced errors, the outcome was inevitable. In 51 minutes, Lisa Opie had captured her first Canadian title 5/9, 9/6, 9/7, 9/3.○

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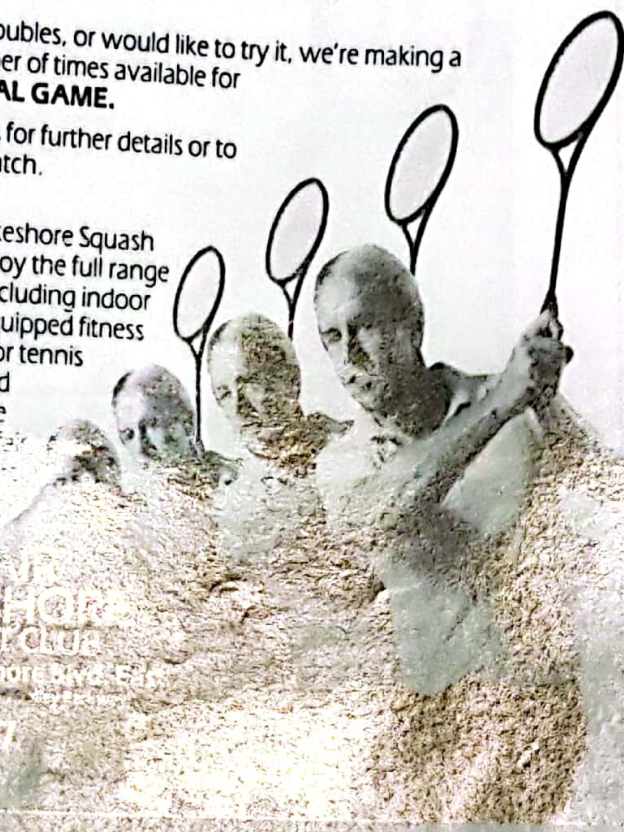
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Troubles And Doubles At Ontario Mixed!

By Nancy and Pat Cranbury

Hamilton Squash and Fitness Club hosted the Ontario Mixed Doubles Champion-

ships for the second year in a row, but that was where the similarities to last year's tournament ended. Several new teams and new faces elevated the

calibre of play to even greater heights, despite the fact that some of the men were away competing in 'other' events.

Two days prior to the beginning of play, Jane Mitchell and Paul Frost, the number three seeds had to withdraw because of illness. While causing some consternation to the tournament organizers, it gave hope to others. New pairings this season also gave added flavour to the championships. Barbara Savage, one half of the defending title holders, teamed up with Scott Leggat while Mayfair Parkway's talented pair of Cathy Covernton and Fred Reid was a dark horse team with plenty of potential. Mayfair's newest club, the Lakeshore, threw Barbara Diggins and Alan Hunt together and of course, the husband and wife team of Lindsay and Anne Smith are always a force to be reckoned with.

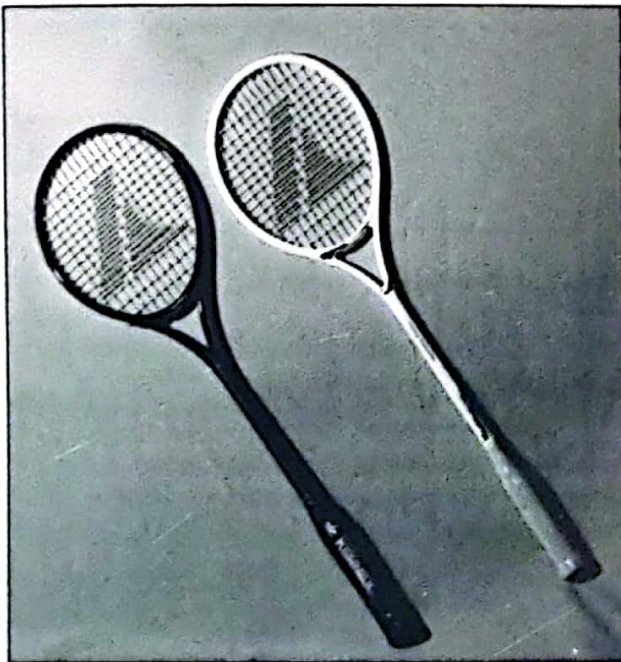
The stage was set for a memorable weekend and Friday night kicked off with a bang. Notable matches featured Cathy Embree and Alan Vice of the Thistle toppling the home club team of Joanne Price and Don Willard. Toronto's Sybil Witt and Peter Sidgwick defeated another home club team of Sandy Wynne and Joe Ban. In one of the weekend's most exciting matches, Barbara Savage and Scott Leggat triumphed over Fred Reid and Cathy Covernton. All of these first round matches went to five games and a number were decided in over points.

Saturday morning matches were equally entertaining, as all seeds moved forward. Quarter-final matches were a family affair with Lindsay and Anne Smith defeating the brother and sister team of Fred and Cairn Meek of the Cricket Club. Top seeds Karen Jerome and Peter Guyatt were upset by Sue Smith and Andrew Slater in a five game match that produced some brilliant work and shot-making. Mayfair's Lindsay and Cass Quinn snuck by Lakeshore's Barbara Diggins and Alan Hunt re-

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semi-finals by way of an injury default when Barb Savage injured a calf muscle in the second game. Sue Smeaton and Andrew Slater continued their roll to the final with a 3-2 victory over Anne and Lindsay Smith, as did Barb Diggins and Alan Hunt with their 3-1 win over Marg Taylor and Cass Quinn.

The consolation final saw Cathy Covernton and Fred Reid winning in 3 over the Meeks who had already played two matches prior to the final! Isn't it great to be young.

The play off for third and fourth was another epic battle as Anne and Lindsay Smith won 15-12 in the fifth over Taylor and Quinn.

The final of the Ontario Mixed Doubles began with Sue Smeaton and Andrew Slater taking the first two games relatively easily, 15-10 and 15-8. However, Barb Diggins and Al Hunt found their pace in the next two games, winning those 15-6 and 15-9. Sue and Andrew turned it on in the fifth, winning it and the championship 15-9.

Congratulations to all participants and a big thank you to our sponsors, Prince and Gatorade.○

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So many programmes, such as leagues, tournaments, and officiating, are successful because Squash Ontario has many dedicated volunteers around the province working on its behalf. These people put in long hours with no pay in order to ensure that players and clubs are able to take advantage of the benefits offered through membership in Squash Ontario.



Anne Holt

It is our hope that these faces, which are so familiar to us, will become so to you.

Too often, these people work tirelessly in the background, with little recognition and very little thanks. As a regular feature of Squash Life Magazine, we intend to give these people the kudos they deserve.



Diana Moody

from Jan Atkinson, Anne will be overseeing a variety of programmes administered through Squash Ontario, including tournaments, officiating, the school squash programme and the new risk management programme.

Anne is a graduate of the Recreation and Business programme at the University of Waterloo. She comes to us with several years of experience, developing and managing programmes in the sports, arts and education fields. We wish her the best as she

But first a word from our sponsor -

.....There is a new face around Squash Ontario these days. Anne Holt has joined the staff as the Programme Director. Taking over

looks forward to working with you and for you in the new year.

Toronto and District Region has a new president, Diana Moody. Diana is taking over the dual presidencies of Ramola Vanderhyden and Jim Kane and has her work cut out for her in trying to set new directions for this region. Diana plays her squash at the Waterfront Tennis & Squash Club.

Penny Glover is a very familiar face around the Ottawa area.

She is a very fine player but her volunteer credentials are equally impressive.

Penny is Vice-Chairman of the National Teams Committee, a member of the National Officiating Committee a certified national examiner and a Level II coach. She has been and continues to be a superb supporter of women's squash in this country. Penny plays her squash at the Rideau Tennis & Squash Club in Ottawa.

Pat Cranbury is the Programme Director at the Hamilton Squash & Fitness Club. She comes by her squash background honestly, being

mother of Nancy who is currently the #3 ranked women's player in Canada. However, Pat's talents are really in the programming area and since

joining the Hamilton Squash Club, has provided her members with an array of programmes - she has something for everyone. Pat's other interests in the area of juniors and seniors, the Squash Ontario Junior Committee, providing her expertise and enthusiasm in promoting this important area of squash.



Penny Glover



Pat Cranbury

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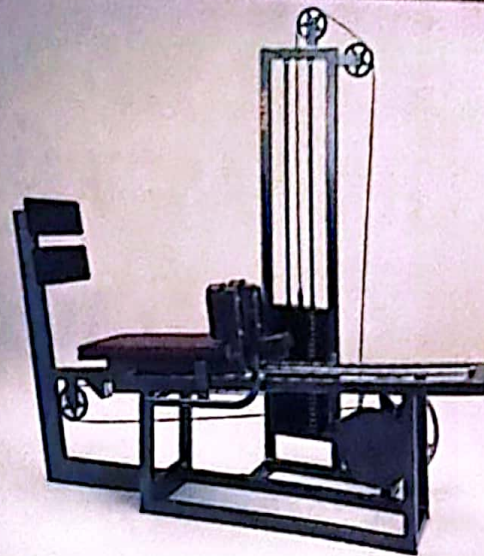
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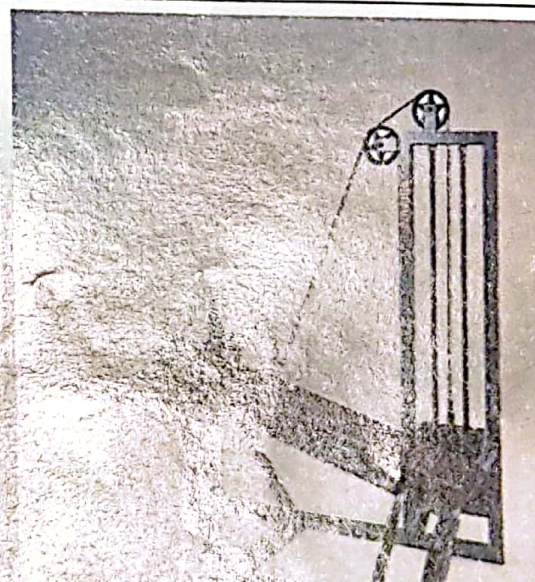
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THE EASTERN FACE OF SQUASH

by Roger Eady

It's hard to believe that anybody has time to play squash in Hong Kong. Devotion to long hours of work, by both old and young, drives this vibrant region to produce goods and services which cater to all manner of tastes. Yet squash is a rapidly growing participant sport and is no longer the preserve of the expatriate worker.

Squash is now a Chinese game and is also being encouraged on the Mainland.

Squash (and other sports) is booming because of the Chinese love of gambling. Two racehorse tracks with 'state of the art' communication systems ensure an income of literally millions of dollars a year to the Hong Kong Jockey Club. This income is spent on massive social projects in-

cluding the provision of sports facilities, coaching and administrative support.

The Jubilee Sports Centre in the New Territories is the centre of excellence for Hong Kong sport and boasts some of the world's top coaches. The combination of excellent facilities and coaching is instrumental in the growing strength of Hong Kong in Asian squash.

What intrigues me even more is the interest being shown by Hong Kong's close neighbour, China, with its eleven hundred million potential players! We all know how good they are at badminton and table tennis - will we see a Khan replaced by a Chan?

My excuse for being in Hong Kong and other South East Asian countries was to attend their major open squash events on my way from Europe to Brisbane for the International Squash Rackets Federation annual meeting.

From Hong Kong, I travelled over to Malaysia and Singapore where, once again, the squash boom was evident. I arrived in Singapore just in time to attend the Singapore Open sponsor's party. Anchor Beer has sponsored the event for 19 years (is this a world record?), and I put my heart and soul into the celebrations. Evidently I thoroughly enjoyed myself, made a speech, and remember very little until later the following day when I ventured onto court to play Oluf Jorgensen, a squash fanatic from Denmark. It's surprising how difficult it is to wield a 9 ounce racquet when you are feeling under part. Needless to say, I ended up the runner up in the match!

Malaysia and Singapore are both playing hosts to the Men's World Championships in October 1989 and both countries would welcome team supporters. Special package deals have been negotiated and I think Canada should be able to take advantage. For more details, for those who like to combine some

continued on pg.21



Roger Eady

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DUNLOP AND HEAD ON REVIEW

By Adrian Coles

This month we will be reviewing products from two well known companies, Dunlop and Head.

Dunlop squash racquets are amongst the leaders in high performance racquets and its latest offerings are no exception.

The Black Max Plus and the Cera Max Plus were both designed by world #3, Ross Norman about a year ago. They both feature an 'inverted tear drop' or 'flathead' design to bring more strings closer to the ball. This results in a higher 'sweet spot'. The Black Max Plus has metallic black cosmetics with gold, white and red trim. This graphite composite frame is reinforced with boron for extra stiffness, resulting in extra power. The Cera Max Plus is identical except that ceramic fibres have been added instead of boron to produce a slightly less stiff frame, for the player with more touch.

They both feature replaceable two piece bumper guards designed to protect the racquet and slip resistant synthetic grips. Both racquets have their 48 square inch mid size heads strung with VS Babolat synthetic, reputed to be the world's leading string-maker for both quantity and quality at around 28 to 30 lbs tension.

Another feature common to both is 'Flextech Tuning'. They are designed to be stiff through the head and through the shaft but, in the Flex-tech area denoted by the grooves in the racquet and the white graph logo that is where the power is generated; that is where the racquet is designed to flex.

On a scale of 0-12, the Black Max Plus has a Flextech rating of 11, making it a touch stiffer than its sister racquet, with a rating of 10. These racquets possess an appealing balance between power and control with the head remaining firmer on contact and the flex point being halfway down the racquet.

The members of Mayfair East who used the demonstrators of these models have been favourably impressed, and our squash professional, Wendy Wontner, kept asking to bor-

row them!

The Cera Max Plus has metallic turquoise cosmetics with red and white trim. They both come with full length racquet cover with the vented area over the grip to allow it to dry after that tough game. The recommended retail price for the Black Max Plus is \$149.00 and for the Cera Max Plus, \$139.00.

The third racquet in this review is Dunlop's Max 600i, featuring the revolutionary injection-molded process that is proven to absorb vibration better than conventional frames. Again, it has a mid-sized 48 square inch head with metallic charcoal cosmetics with red and gold trim.

The technology has been taken from Dunlop's successful injection molded process for tennis frames; Dunlop has a patent on this process so there won't be any 'me-too' racquets coming along.

It is a hollow racquet that gives you

the best of both worlds. It is probably one of the most powerful racquets around. As the head speed increases, the racquet actually stiffens and strikes the ball harder. On the other hand, the flexible frame responds to touch play, which is good for precision and control. For players with a tendency towards tennis elbow, this may be the racquet that will allow you to play pain-free. There is a body of proof showing how little vibration is transmitted to the arm on contact.

It is sold as a frame only for you to have custom strung to your own preference. It also has a full length cover with a drying vent and sells for around \$189.00.

So confident is Dunlop about the quality of its high performance racquets that it is offering a no-quibble 120 day replacement guarantee on the 600i, the Black Max Plus and the Cera Max Plus. For a test drive on these frames, contact your local Dun-

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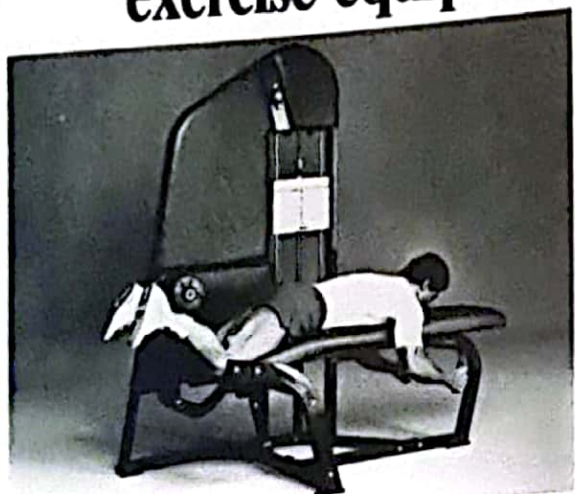
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lop dealer.

It is not just in the area of racquet manufacture that technology has been employed to enhance performance. Today's sport shoes are a blend of the functional and the visual. Head's New Radial Express shoe is a fine example of a good looking shoe that is both comfortable and practical. This shoe scores in the areas of flexibility, lightness, support, fashion, fit and durability.

The key to the stability of the shoe is the two wedges at the side of the sole. These provide protection against rollover and, for the competitor, provide a much surer and quicker recovery on those tough shots. The comfort and support is aided by the blending of leather and nylon mesh in the upper. The 'D' rings provide for good, quick lacing.

The EVA midsole provides lightness and it absorbs much of the pounding. It also has a removable inner-sole. The New Head Radial Express is part of the line of Radial Court shoes that are proving very popular. The Radial Express is available in men's sizes and the suggested retail price is \$64.95.○

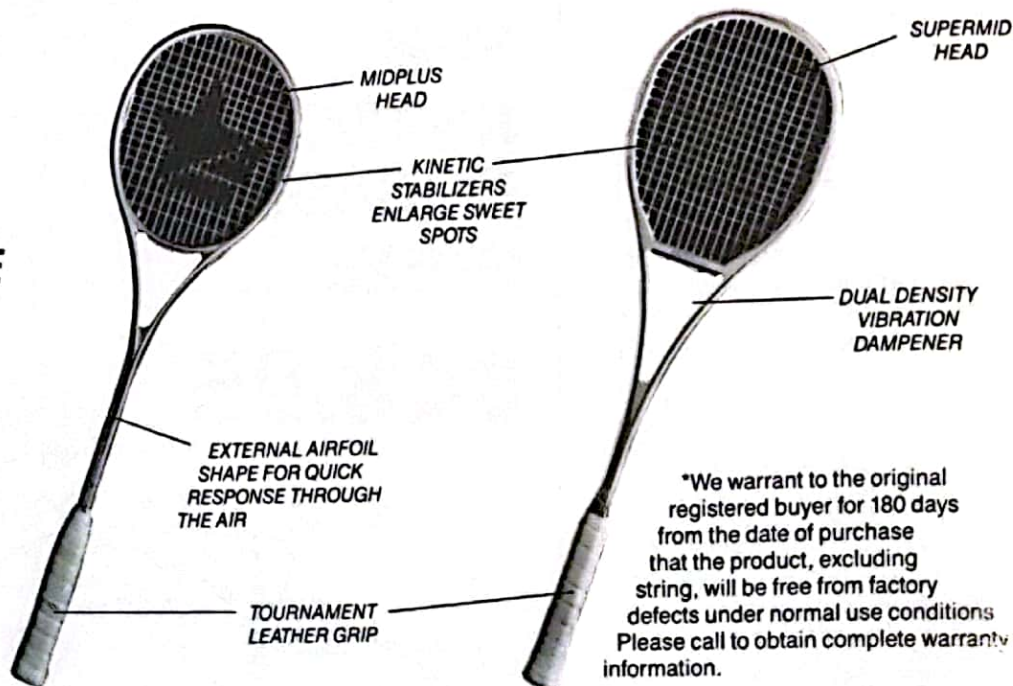
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with an exotic holiday, Singapore and Malaysia are the answer.

There is more good news for those of you who may wish to visit South East Asia in future years. Thailand and Indonesia play squash and we have recently heard that Vietnam is now playing the sport. Very soon we will be able to travel to most countries of the world and play squash. Maybe a group of Ontario players could convince their wives that they are off to Bangkok on a squash tour! Certainly there are courts in Bangkok and if any of you require a letter of confirmation, please do not hesitate to contact me. This creates a whole new and legitimate reason to travel to that exotic city of Bangkok. And a tough game of squash in tropical conditions will warrant the services of a highly skilled masseuse afterwards. Boys...we have it made!

On my return leg to Europe, I paid another visit to the Mecca of squash - Pakistan. The final of the Pakistan Open was a home clash between Jahangir and Jansher Khan, using a lower tin and American scoring. The match lasted 2 hours, 14 minutes with

Jahangir just taking the title. It was, in my opinion, the most exciting game of squash I have ever seen and, if lowering the tin has this impact on the professional game, then I welcome the change.

Besides witnessing this fine match, I was also able to catch a glimpse of the next generation of Pakistani players. They are formidable and will shortly be let loose on the world circuit.

And, finally to Bahrain for one day. All the Gulf States boast excellent squash facilities. But of even greater importance, these centres are staffed by excellent Pakistani or Egyptian coaches. Junior squash is booming and standards are rising rapidly. Bahrain hosts the Asian Junior Championships in February 1989 which will afford an opportunity for the youth of Asian squash to demonstrate their rising standards to the rest of the squash world.

I can report that squash is healthy in the world at large and even in old Europe, the sport is growing as I shall report in the next issue, after visits to Italy and Germany.○

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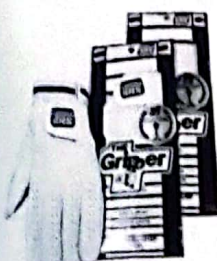
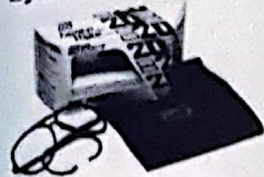
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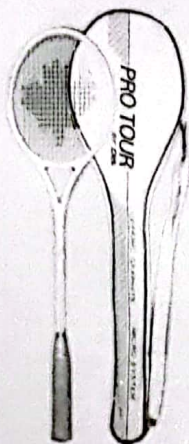
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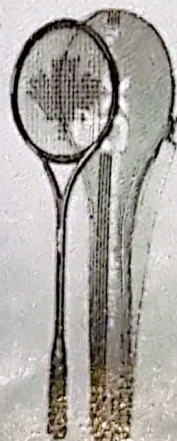


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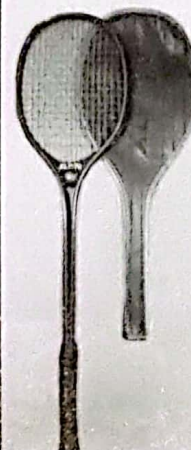
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THE TORONTO ATHLETIC CLUB: MORE THAN A FACELIFT

By Estelle Goffrit

There's a new wave of excitement in the air as renovations to the Toronto Athletic Club, (formerly The Squash Academy) proceed at a quick pace.

Along with its new name, new look, and expanded facilities, there is renewed commitment among management and staff to bring the Toronto Athletic Club to top seed. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto's business district, the Club has always had the advantage of a prime location. However, Bill MacDonell, President of the Toronto Athletic Club, explains that the time had come for a revitalization of facilities and services that were better suited to the club's executive membership.

Hence, the Toronto Athletic Club's insightful new Restricted Membership policy in its Racquet and Fitness sections.

"Restricted numbers will allow us to maintain better standards, even at prime time," says MacDonell. "Too many downtown clubs allow their memberships to exceed capacity, so there's a waiting list to get on court, congested locker areas, and little or no breathing space in the workout areas." Dennis Goodfellow, Racquets Director at the Toronto Athletic Club, (hailing from Holiday Fitness) adds that, "limiting the racquets section to 950 members offers significant advantages. It stands to reason that these members will gain from personal attention and increased acces-

sibility to facilities and programmes."

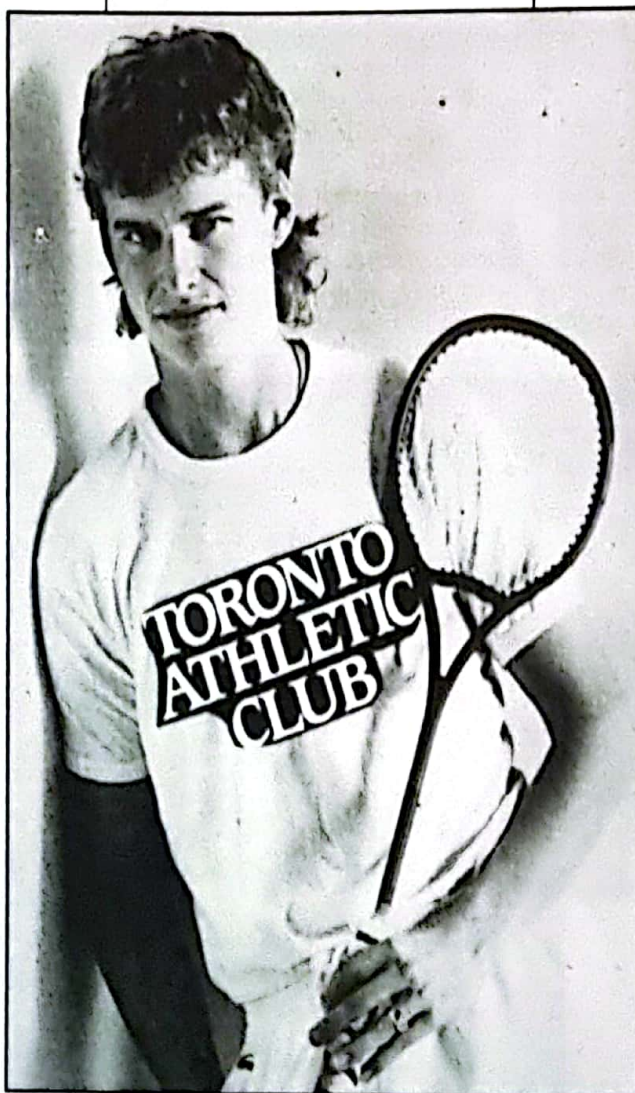
Already a wide variety of squash specific programmes are underway; including clinics, round-robins, league games, and exhibition matches. The racquet section caters

top of the list. There is also a newly appointed fitness area featuring Lifecycles and other state-of-the-art equipment. The over-sized aerobics studio has been renovated as well, and the feeling is exceptionally bright and airy. The men's and the ladies' locker facilities are being upgraded to meet new club standards and services. Proposed renovations also include an expanded bar and restaurant, (now operating 7 days a week with a full-service menu), a Corporate Meeting Room, renovated lounge, new Club entrance and reception area, and Pro Shop.

Although the Toronto Athletic Club is new in many ways, its operations are backed by years of experience and sound reputation. "There's no doubt in my mind," concludes MacDonell, "that the Toronto Athletic Club has a decided edge over other downtown racquet clubs. We've undergone more than a facelift... there's a whole new energy here that's catching on fast."

For further information about the Toronto Athletic Club, give Bill or Estelle a call or visit them at 16 Queen Street East, Toronto.

This space is reserved for member clubs of Squash Ontario. We invite clubs to participate by sending in a short write-up and photograph to Squash Life. Reprints are available at minimal cost. For more info, please contact Squash Ontario at 495-4140.



Gary Waite, Toronto Athletic's touring pro

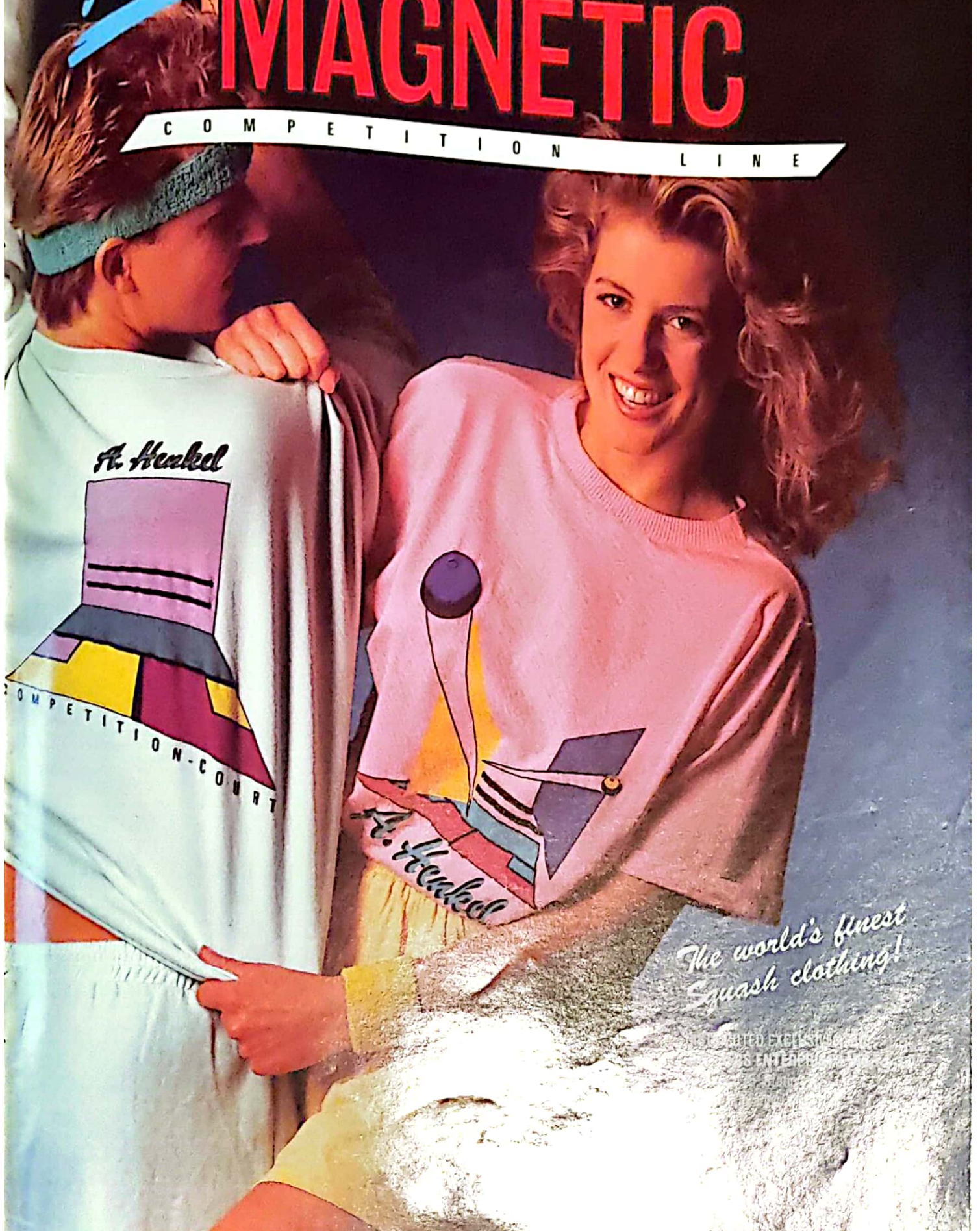
to all players, novice to advanced, and offers a Ladies Only clinic, taught by the new club touring pro, Gary Waite.

Renovations to the Toronto Athletic club began this fall, with 8 International squash courts, (2 of which are new) and 3 American courts at the

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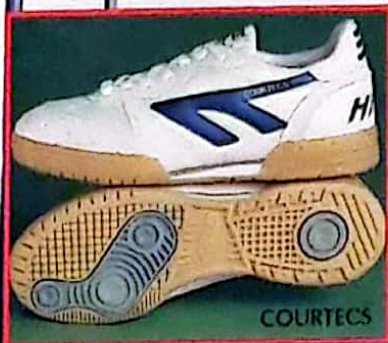


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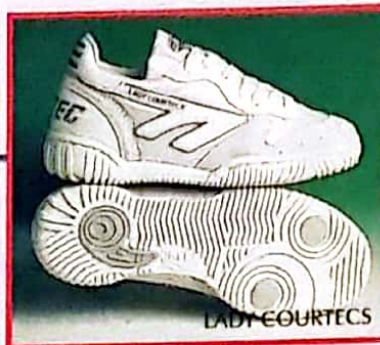
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