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SQUASH

L I F E

MAY/JUNE 1985

VOL. 9/No. 3



CONTENTS

4

EDITORIAL

The Prima Donna Syndrome

6

FEATURE

Ontario Open

8

INTERNATIONAL SCENE

The Best of Both Worlds

15

PRO'S CORNER

Ghosting

22

CLUB FOCUS

The Newest Mayfair

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THE PRIMA DONNA SYNDROME

Myths, while often pleasant little stories about imaginary people or things, usually have their basis in truth. The male athlete has become a bit of a myth over the years, thanks to Hollywood and the media. He is often portrayed as being all brawn with very little grey matter, and unable to articulate even the simplest thought.

Squash has always prided itself on being a cerebral game - one which requires not only skill but a slightly higher degree of intelligence. Success is dependent upon a combination of deft manoeuvring, strategy and tactics. The court is akin to a giant chessboard with each player striving to outflank and outwit the other.

We've always assumed that our male players were a part of this squash intelligensia. How disappointing to learn that, in some cases, the supposed myth is no myth at all. The recent Ontario Championships attracted an excellent draw of over 130 players, but the Men's Open event was lacking in substance, as some of the top players in the country were conspicuous by their absence. They were boycotting the event because eyeguards were mandatory. Interestingly enough, the age categories in which the more mature athletes competed, set records for number of entrants and not one complained about having to wear eye protection. It was only a few of the children who chose this moronic avenue of protest. It is safer, one supposes, to object to something in this milquetoast fashion than to stand up and be counted.

The issue here is not really the mandatory eyeguard ruling. If these professionals felt so strongly

about their regulation, they should have been supporting their beliefs with creditable and articulate arguments, not with a juvenile attempt to compromise the Open. This was the final provincial championship at which the ruling would apply and now, the entire programme will be carefully evaluated. Its success or failure will be judged on the comments and recommendations of players, referees, administrators and tournament chairmen. Unfortunately, any input from these particular professionals will be deemed worthless because they chose to play such a passive and apathetic role.

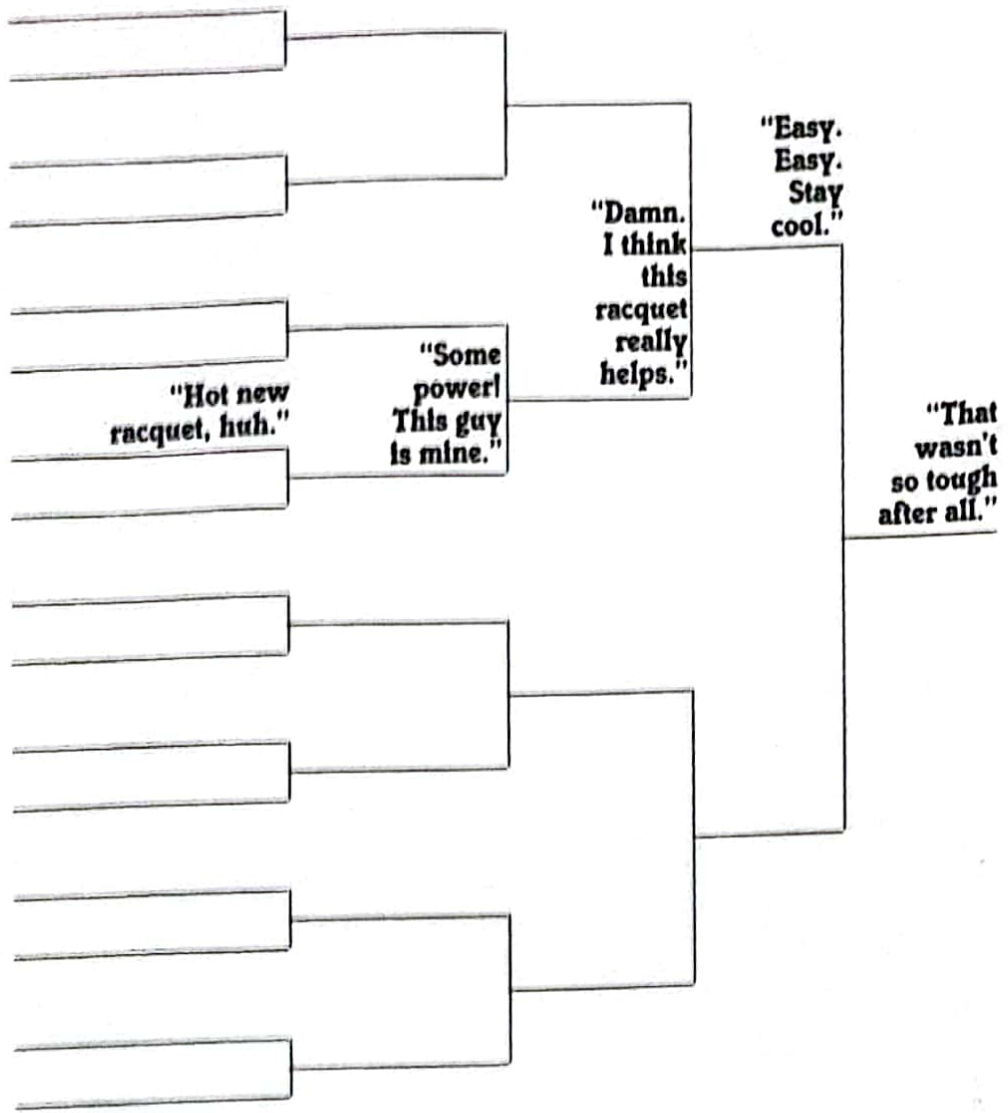
The Game is bigger than any one person - and so it should be!

No, the issue here is whether a disaffected few should take precedence over the many. It is interesting to note that a number of these boycotters are the first in line when it comes to money - not the giving, mind you, but the taking. Some of them have been the recipients of funding from either Squash Ontario or the national body for their training and travel expenses. This association is

comprised of clubs, not individuals. Owners have, in the past, expressed concerns about Squash Ontario's funding policies for players, arguing that monies should be going back into the game to encourage more people to play. They question whether our mandate, which is a grassroots development one, is being served when monies are being passed on to the elite players. The association has steadfastly held to the belief that the elite player has an important place in the provincial scheme, but perhaps now is the time to re-evaluate that commitment. If these few players are not prepared to support the association through its programmes, then maybe the association should not be supporting them. Does Ontario really want to be represented by players who only take from the game, or is it better off by channelling all of its energies and funds into broadening the base of the squash population, leaving the national association to deal with the prima donnas?

It would have been most interesting to see what position these players would have taken had the prize money been more substantial. Would they have stood their ground and still boycotted the event, or would their principles have suddenly become explicable? Would they have sold out for a few dollars more?

These few set out to mar the Ontario Championships. Instead, they merely proved that many of us know all too well - the game is bigger than any one person and so it should be. Fortunately, the amateurs are not representative of their profession and only succeeded in perpetuating the myth at least as far as they are concerned.



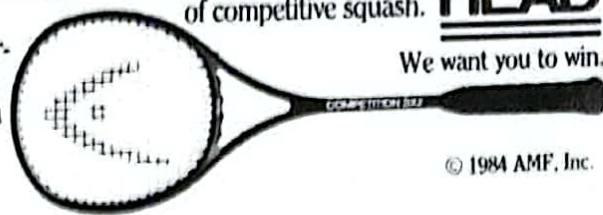
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ONTARIO OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

SQUASH COMES OF AGE

VETERANS EVENTS ATTRACT RECORD ENTRIES

BY JAN ATKINSON

The Ontario Open Championships were played at the Mayfair Parkway Racquet Club, April 19-21. The real story of the event lies in the people who did play, rather than those who didn't (see editorial). A record 137 entries were received and fully 50% of those were entered in the age categories! An interesting aside was that as the age categories grew in years so did the entry, with an impressive 14 competitors in the men's over 50 event! With eight events and consolations to play, 10 of Mayfair's international courts were kept busy from 6:20 Friday evening until the last ball was struck at 4:20 Sunday.

The Championships introduced a new event this year in the men's over 30. In its first running, the event attracted a small yet quality draw. Ross Hainsworth proved the seedings accurate as he became the first-ever Ontario Over 30 Champion. Runner-up Mario Raponi provided stiff competition in the final, eventually losing out 9-7 in the fifth. Oakville's Rich Armstrong was the consolation winner.

Tony Swift made it three in a row when he won the over 35 event. Once again, Tony met and defeated Dennis Goodfellow in the final. Tony considers his win a good omen as he tends to follow it up with a Canadian veterans championship. I'm sure Dennis Goodfellow would like to see Tony play in the 40+ category. Colin

Syme defeated Brian Blakely in the consolation final.

In the men's over 40 event, Craig Wells repeated as champion. Craig met Jon Radue of St. Catharines in the final. Jon took the first game 9-5 and it appeared that Craig had his hands full. As it happened, it was Jon who was in trouble and not Craig at all. Craig took the next two games quite handily and then the match as Jon retired after the third game. Apparently Jon was suffering from an injured leg. The consolation final was a long five games, with Bill Warren outlasting Bill Graber.

Gerry Shugar, one of the great thinkers of the game, collected yet another squash title in defending his title against Paul Wilson of Peterborough in the final. Paul had survived a tough semi-final against Montreal's Nicki Lang to meet his nemesis in the final. Ian McGee of Waterloo was the consolation winner. Ian had more incentive to win than did Gary Noseworthy. Wouldn't you if your mother was watching?

The men's over 50 event was the largest ever, attracting 14 entries. The Kerr twins managed a pair of runner-up finishes. John Kerr lost to club mate Ken Jolly in the consolation final, while defending champion Jim Kerr lost in the final to a relative youngster, John Fuller.

A combined event was held in the women's over 35. There were not

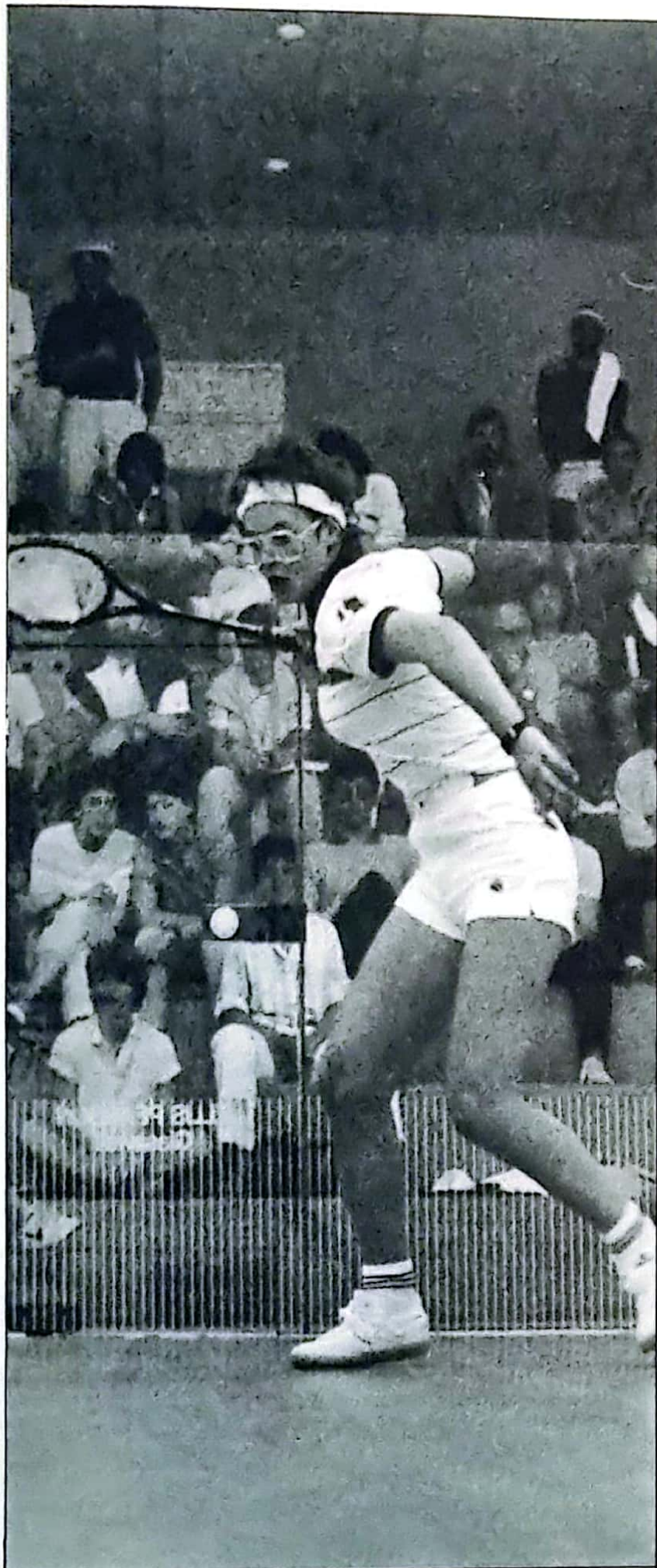
enough entries to warrant an over 40 event. Cate Mee of Niagara-on-the-Lake, successfully defended her title over Toronto's Inge Weber. Cate doesn't appear to have lost any of her fitness acquired as a champion field hockey player. Vicki Gleeson recovered from a two game deficit to win the consolation over Nancy Sharpe.

The women's open boasted a large draw of 37 entries. Top seeded Gail Pimm seemingly sailed through the draw, not losing a single game in her quest for the title. Finalist Jo Ann Beckwith had a much tougher route to the final, having been pushed to five games in the quarter-finals and losing the first game in her semi against Nina Porter. Gail Pimm is a fine athlete and the title is one of many she will undoubtedly win.

Returning to the scene after a two year break is Jann... who displayed the same ability that made her a national team member before she began her... Diana Dainty fell victim to... 's rusty, yet very evident skills... the consolation final.

The men's open featured Gary Waite as top seed. Gary is enjoying such great success on the courts this year, the question was not who was going to win but who would Gary defeat in the final. Gary breezed by Robert Lum, Frank Welsman and Geoff Mitchell to arrive in the final

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



GAIL PIMM, SIMPLY AWESOME.

MAY/JUNE 1985

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SQUASH LIFE 7

GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT A REALITY

BY IAN C. STEWART

In January, a press release was issued world-wide and read as follows:

"The I.S.P.A. and the W.P.S.A. to form a World Squash Council which hopefully will:

1. Draw up one world schedule avoiding major fixture clashes.
2. Investigate ways and means of accommodating the entry of players from one discipline into the tournaments of the other.
3. To explore possible world-wide endorsements to the equal benefit of both Associations.

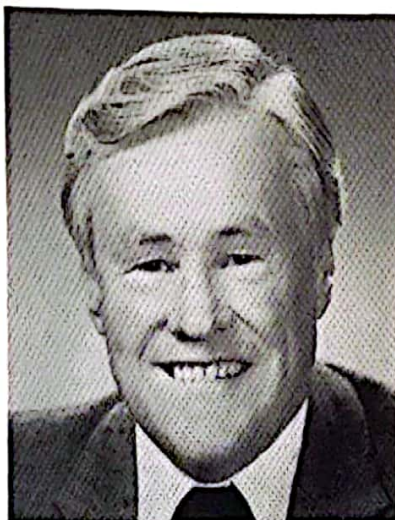
Eventually this could lead to a combined world circuit and world ranking list".

At the time of this announcement, I was quoted as saying, "This was an historic occasion."

At the W.P.S.A. Annual Meeting held in Toronto on January 11th, the W.P.S.A. agreed to jointly issue the above statement with the I.S.P.A. and the opportunity for a world grand prix circuit or international series becomes a reality. A little background might be of some interest to all of you.

Anything like this has to have a catalyst to get it started and I expect that Guy Laroche, the French perfume manufacturers, can probably take most of the credit. For some unknown reason, Guy Laroche have come to the conclusion that the best way to sell their male and female fragrances is through squash, and they have made a major contribution and commitment to the game in Europe. They started off as sponsor of the French Open in 1983, expanded to the German Open in 1984, and the 1985 North American Open.

When the I.S.R.F. announced that they were attempting to put together a world grand prix circuit, Guy Laroche were one of the obvious commercial concerns that were approached to be involved on a world-wide basis. They have been



IAN C. STEWART

most responsive and very supportive, but one of the conditions that they insisted upon was that free entry into the French and German Opens be granted to the top 3 or 4 hardball players and that the same consideration be given to the top soft ball players for entry into the most prestigious hardball event, the North American Open. Under those conditions, the players could do nothing else but agree.

Support from the playing side had actually started some months before. Ned Edwards, the number 2 hardball player in the world, has for some time, been extremely anxious to play a certain number of designated soft ball events. Jahangir Khan, now I guess officially recognized as the number 1 squash player in the world regardless of the game, also felt that he would like to play in a certain number of hardball events. Both these players have talked about the possibilities of free entry into the other one's tournaments among the players, and had gathered a certain amount of support. It does not matter how hard those of us who are in the administration of squash may try to bring the two games together, it can only be done with the support of the top

players.

The grand prix circuit which will in 1985 be known as an international series, got underway with the French Open in March, immediately followed by the Xerox Canadian Open—a soft ball event immediately followed by a hardball tournament. Hopefully in its first year, the series will consist of 20-24 events, mostly national championships of which approximately 6-8 will be held in North America, and 3 or 4 of these will be hardball. Although the I.S.P.A. and the W.P.S.A. will continue to rank players under the terms of their own circuits, there will be an attempt to produce an international ranking list based on the results of the international series. 1985 could be a most interesting year.

Where will all this lead? It seems obvious to me that the international series will eventually become a grand prix circuit similar to the Volvo grand prix of tennis. It also seems to me that there will be a demand by the players at the top to have some sort of conformity in the rules of the two games.

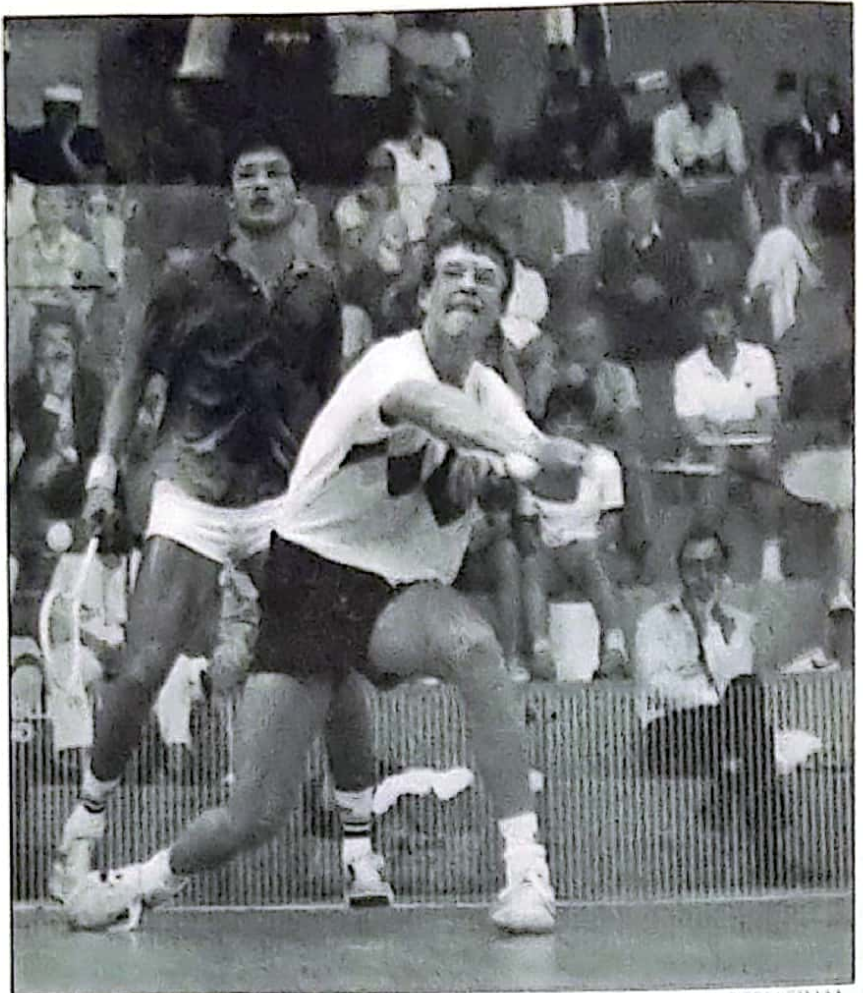
The width of the courts and the hardness of the balls will not come together in the foreseeable future, but all other differences I believe formally can be resolved in the next 4-5 years. I think that the scoring and the height of the tin should be the same in both games, and I suggest that the American version should be the one that is adopted in both these areas. Most of the court rules and court markings should be what is currently in vogue in the International game. With these changes, the difference between the two games would not be much greater than the difference between playing tennis on grass or on clay. Once the top players in the world agree to standardization in the rules and specifications, then the grass courts will undoubtedly follow. ●

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

having lost a mere ten points! Maxim Weithers' road to the final wasn't as smooth, but once in the final he proved he was in the right place. Max worked to a 5-2 lead in the first game, which became a 7-4 lead which turned into a 9-7 loss. In the second game, Max built a 7-3 lead and held on to it, winning the game 9-3. Once again in the third game Max surged ahead 5-1 only to have it swept aside. Gary clearly won the third game 9-5. By now Gary had settled down and Max was feeling a little deflated. The fourth game and the championship went to Gary 9-4. Robert Lefcoe was victorious in the consolation event over Jeff Tory.

Many thanks to Lorus Watches, Power and The Keg Restaurants, who donated all prizes for the deserving champions. Power also provided t-shirts for all competitors.

For the first time since 1980, all titles were won by Ontario players. Next year's event promises to be even bigger, as we plan to continue with the men's over 30 event and by popular demand will be introducing a men's over 55 event. See you there! ●



GARY WAITE (FRONT) OVERCOMES CHALLENGE FROM MAX WEITHERS IN OPEN FINAL.

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HEATHER & BRIAN MCKAY— HOMEWARD BOUND

It is said that sooner or later, all Australians return home, and that time has come for the legendary team of Heather and Brian McKay.

The McKays will be teaching their last squash lessons in Canada at the TCS&CC on July 31st. Heather and Brian will remain in Toronto until

late August, as both will be competing in the Masters Games. Appropriately enough, Heather moved to Toronto in 1973 a World Champion, and it would appear we will be sending her home a newly crowned World Masters Champion. ●

U.S.S.R.A. HONOURS IAN STEWART

Ian Stewart was honoured with the President's Cup during the U.S. National Championships played in New Haven, February 15-18. The President's Cup is the highest honour paid to an individual by the United States Squash Racquets Association. Mr. Stewart is currently the Chairman of the International Squash Rackets Federation, thus attaining the most senior position available in the squash community. Ian is a past president of the Canadian Squash Racquets Association

and was the founding Chairman of Squash Ontario. In addition to devoting countless hours of his time voluntarily to the game, he also manages to run a Toronto based textile firm, of which he is President.

The award has been presented since 1966 and Ian is only the second Canadian to win. Jimmy Triviss was honoured in 1977, which marked the first occasion on which the award was presented to someone outside of the United States. ●

KHAN & DEVOY REPEAT AS BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONS

On April 23rd, Susan Devoy of New Zealand, successfully defended her British Open title. Miss Devoy defeated England's Martine Le Moignan with scores of 9-6, 5-9, 9-6, 9-5. This marks the 24th consecutive year that the women's championship has been won by a resident of the southern hemisphere: Heather McKay (16), Sue Newman (1), Barbara Wall (1), Vicki Cardwell (4) and Sue Devoy (2).

As expected, Jahangir Khan made

it four in a row. Australia's Chris Dittmar was this year's runner-up, losing in straight games to the seemingly invincible Khan. Jahangir has not lost a soft ball squash match since April of 1981!

This marks the third year that the British Open has been sponsored by Davies & Tate, a replacement window systems firm. The final rounds of the Open were played on an all-glass court in the Wembley Conference Centre in London. ●

CANADIANS SWEEP U.S. DOUBLES

On March 31st, Canada scored a first-ever sweep of the U.S. Doubles Championships. In St. Louis, the teams of Peter Martin/Jay Gillespie, Andy Pastor/Peter Hall and Don Leggat/John Fuller won their respective open, veterans and seniors championships.

At the same time in Philadelphia, Heather McKay and Barbara Savage successfully defended their U.S. Women's Doubles title. Two weeks earlier, McKay and Savage won the inaugural Canadian Women's Doubles Championship.

XEROX

JAHANGIR CONQUERS CANADIAN OPEN

BY JAN ATKINSON

Jahangir Khan added the prestigious Xerox Canadian Open title to his long list of tournament victories. The win was also a lucrative one, as Jahangir earned \$10,000.00 U.S. of the \$50,000.00 U.S. total purse. The new Metro Convention Centre was the site for the event, with all matches being played on the three glass-walled tour court.

Mark Talbott confirmed his role as best supporting actor, losing in a four game final match against Jahangir. The remaining cast for the event consisted of North America's top players and a sprinkling of international stars. Australia's Greg Pollard, England's Geoff Williams and Maqsood Ahmed of Pakistan were making their debuts on the WPSA hardball circuit.

The round of 16 produced two upsets, with Steve Bowditch and Mike Desaulniers ousting the 5th and 7th seeds, John Nimick and Todd Binns. A quick halt was put to any further progress as both players were defeated in straight games at the quarter-final stage. Mario Sanchez and Ned Edwards were very impressive in their wins over Steve and Mike respectively. Ned Edwards appeared to be ready for his semi-final appointment with Mark Talbott. However, Ned wasn't able to gain control and lost in three close games to his friend Mark. In the other semi-final, Jahangir Khan was all business in defeating Mario Sanchez in straight games. Obviously fresh in Jahangir's mind was the near loss to Mario at the January Fleischmann's.

The Tuesday night final was another episode in the very popular Jahangir and Mark show. Before a packed gallery and television cameras, these two champions illustrated why they are the two winningest squash professionals in the world. Spectators were treated to a



fine display of fitness, racquet skills and strategy. And like most previous occasions, Jahangir emerged the victor, this time in four games (15-8, 15-9, 10-15, 15-11).

The Xerox Canadian Open was presented in a fashion second to none, and the event is a welcome addition for squash fans in the Toronto area. ●

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TOUGH COMPETITION AT THE NORTH BAY OPEN

BY RICK WAGG

The North Bay YMCA was the scene for the first annual North Bay Open held on the weekend of March 1st. Sixty entries competed in the seven divisions. Thirty-two players arrived from out of town representing

Barrie, Huntsville, Sault Ste. Marie, Iroquois Falls and Sudbury.

In the men's "A", top seeded Rick Wagg defeated Jean Seguin in a close final. The "A" division was very competitive as three of the five

first round matches went the limit. In the consolation event, Mike Caston (Sudbury) defeated Don Hopkins (Iroquois Falls). The ladies' "B" event was a typically small draw, however there were some good matches. Carrie Hall defeated Jane Morland 3-1 to take top honours. Marilyn Jackson defeated Jean Kerr in the ladies' "C" final. There was an exciting five game match between Carrie and Jane Pitman (Huntsville) with Carrie winning 9-7 in the final game. The men's "B" was an all North Bay final between Scott Murray and Wayne Lynch. Scott outlasted Wayne to take the title 3-2. The men's "C" final was an all Sudbury event won by Bob Marynchuk over Dana Matson.

Bill Warren was also conducting a referee's exam during the tournament and eight players became rated officials. Terry Sickle received the highest mark and a C-2 grading.

Judging by the comments of players, everyone enjoyed the tournament socials and making new friends. I'm sure that they will be back next year.

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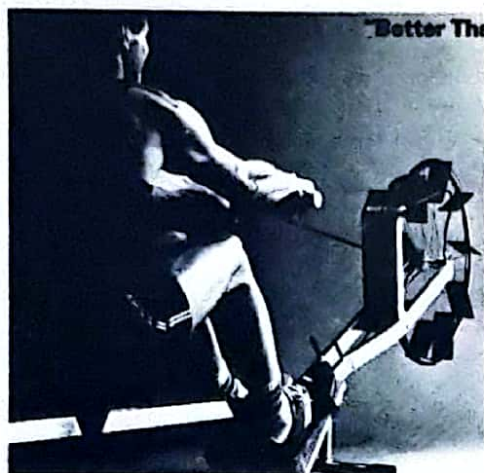
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FIRST ANNUAL LEAGUE FINALS FOR TORONTO WOMEN

BY SHARON MCKENNA

Mayfair Parkway Racquet Club donated court time for the first Toronto and District Women's league playoffs on Saturday March 23rd. That was a happy coincidence for the winning Mayfair "A" and "B" teams, who enjoyed their home courts for the finals.

In the "A" division, Mayfair beat The Club 4-1. Although Sandy



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Wontner was the only Mayfair team member to lose; her match, for the number one position, was the high point of the evening. Nancy Cranbury from The Club won the exciting match, 10-9 in the fifth game.

In "B", the Mayfair team won over Richmond Hill 4-1. Wendy Wadham from Mayfair overcame a strong comeback in the fifth game of the match to beat Sandy Caroline in the number three position. Sandy fought back from a 1-8 position only to lose 9-7.

The Toronto Cricket Club won the "C" division by beating Ontario Racquets Club 4 to 1. The Squash Academy won over the Skyline Club to take the "D" division, also by a 4-1 score. In the Day League, Pickering beat Georgetown 3-1.

Congratulations go to Mayfair Parkway as host club, to Women-sports and Slazenger for providing prizes, to the excellent referees and to all players for treating the spectators to an evening of high calibre play and sportsmanship. ●

MISSISSAUGA R.C. MENS "C"

BY BOB HARDY

John Dollman of Glendon College proved that youth, fitness and superb drop shots will defeat the wily veterans of squash. After cruising through the first rounds, John had his hands full against Jay Burn of Ontario Racquets Club in the quarter finals. In a gruelling 1 hour and 20 min. match, John changed tactics in the fifth game and advanced to the semis. There he defeated top seed Al Rivero of the host club, in four games. In the finals John continued his winning squash, defeating Mississauga's last hope, Roy French in four games.

In the consolation event, Ken Murray of Hamilton Squash Club gave the more experienced (aged) players hope, with a 3 to 1 victory over a determined Peter Tanz of Duffin Squash Club.

Congratulations to all participants for their squash abilities, courtesy and good sportsmanship. You made the tournament! ●

MAY/JUNE 1985

DIGGENS AND THORNE TOUR VISITS OTTAWA

BY JIM KENWARD

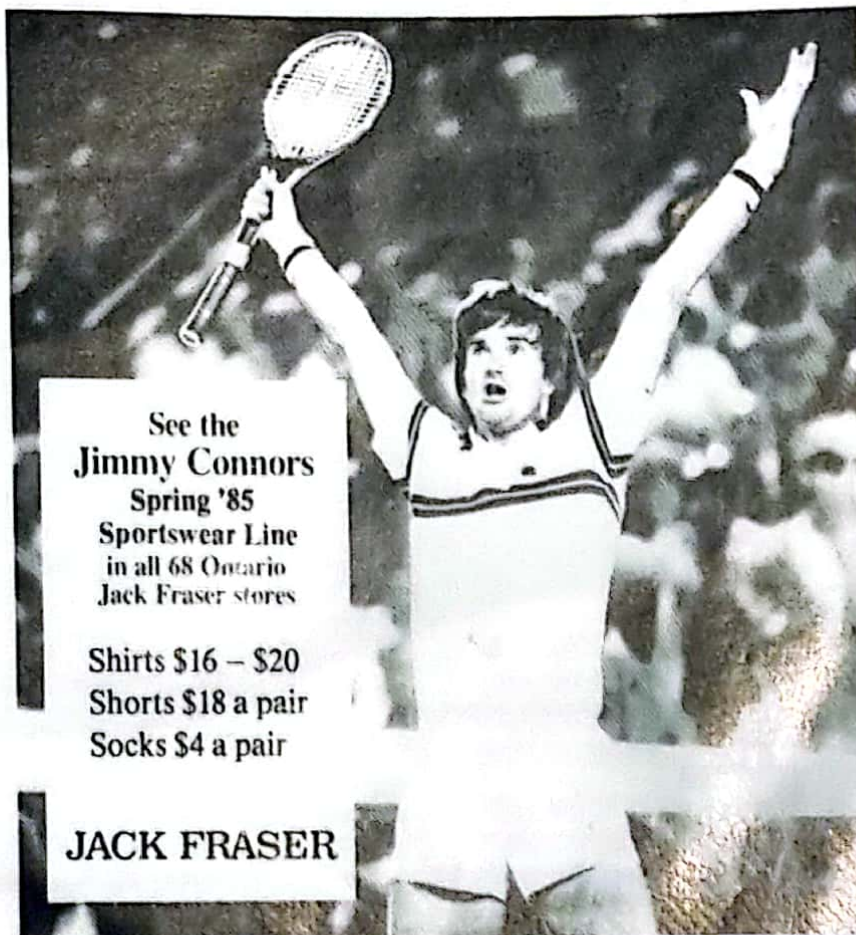
Meeting people at airports is always exciting. When the visitors are two world class squash players, even the Mounties at the Ottawa airport are quickly converted to admirers. So it was early one February morning when Barbara Diggins and Rhonda Thorne flew in from Toronto to spend 48 hours giving clinics, lessons and exhibitions in this region.

This was no glamour trip for either player - it was part of an extremely demanding tour to promote squash in cities and towns of Ontario outside Toronto. Sponsored by Squash Ontario and in large measure funded by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, it involved travelling to 10 different Squash centres, representing every region of Squash

Ontario and playing at 18 different clubs - all in the space of 17 days during Canada's most inhospitable month for weather.

After a fast tour of downtown Ottawa, a warm welcome and cups of coffee (they had started the day at 5:45 a.m.!) it was on to the Ottawa Athletic Club for the rest of the day. General Manager Ian Borer, and Professional Rick Powers, were on hand to welcome the visitors and get them started on clinics and lessons. These were only attended by ladies, and later in the day by some top juniors.

Coinciding with the early stages of the CFRA-OAC tournament, a highlight was undoubtedly the exhibition match between the two ladies in the evening. During seminars and lessons, one sensed that Barbara was the maestro and Rhonda a very competent assistant, while in the exhibition match the reverse was true - a 10-year difference in ages mainly accounting for both factors. World Champion in 1981 and still ranked in the world's top 3, Rhonda's small compact figure was gracefully balanced for every shot, and her hard strokes were played with authoritative power to a teasing length both down the walls and cross court. Coupled



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SQUASH LIFE 13

with deft and accurate short shots, devastating boasts and the stamina to keep running fast all night, she had Barbara a bit frazzled by the fourth game! Showmanship included some unusual racquet handling and well disguised breaking of the rules!

After an excellent dinner at the Hayloft, both ladies returned home to a roaring big fire and stories of their experiences, including the "Thorne broken arm" prank on Squash Ontario's Executive Director.

The following morning, Barbara and Rhonda were welcomed to the Rideau Tennis and Squash Club by John Bond, the General Manager, and Sylvie Faulkner. The two clinics given were well attended by players of quite varying abilities, including the CSRA's Executive Director.

After the first clinic, the sudden switch from 109°F weather in Rhonda's hometown of Brisbane to the 9°F temperatures of Ontario, finally caused her bronchial problems and she wisely retired, much to the disappointment of those who came to watch her later.

Left to run the second clinic on her own, Barbara continued to show why she is considered one of the world's

best squash coaches. This recognition has come by sheer hard work and the completion of many testing assignments. Over a span of years she not only played for England 27 times and was ranked No. 8 in the world, but she captained and coached the English team between 1978 and 1984.

After clinics and lessons were completed at the Rideau, Barbara made her debut on the curling rink at the R.A. Centre (snowmobiling and cross-country were previous firsts for her on this tour) and visited the R.C.M.P. Musical Ride stables.

Then it was on to the Queensview Racquets Club in the evening, and what a change. After the comparative serenity of the Rideau, the place was bedlam, with a racquetball tournament in full swing. Pros Andrew Dales and John MacRury met Barbara and introduced her to 14 eager players. She dispersed these into two courts and proceeded to give a most effective clinic. Utilizing all four walls of both courts with a myriad of different drills, demonstrations of strokes and verbal tips, she imparted to the players and onlookers an education and enthusiasm of which few coaches are capable in such a short time. All this

despite the terrible background noise generated by racquetballs and squash balls thumping on more than a dozen particle board walled courts, and the general babble of voices.

The visit seemed to pass so quickly, but as Barbara and Rhonda were being driven to the train station for their trip to Kingston, it was very appropriate that CBC Radio in Ottawa should broadcast an interview with them, and wish them a good journey in the fog that permeated Eastern Ontario that morning.

From both players' comments it was clear that the amenities and the hospitality which they had found in various Canadian squash centres had impressed them. It is also abundantly clear from post visit comments of participants, that the tour has made a major contribution to the continued grass roots development of squash in Ontario. Many players are kicking themselves now for not getting out to watch them or take lessons.

Thank you Barbara, Rhonda, Squash Ontario, and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, on behalf of all towns and cities visited. ●



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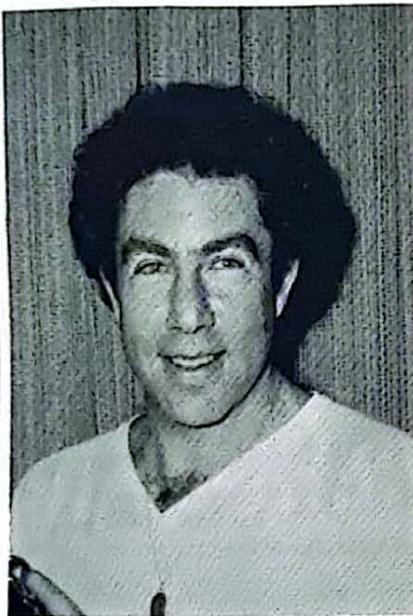
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YOU DON'T ALWAYS NEED A PARTNER TO PRACTICE

BY DENNIS GOODFELLOW



Dennis' Goodfellow is a Certified Level III Coach. He is the professional at the Ajax Recreation Centre and is currently Vice President of the Canadian Professional Squash Association.

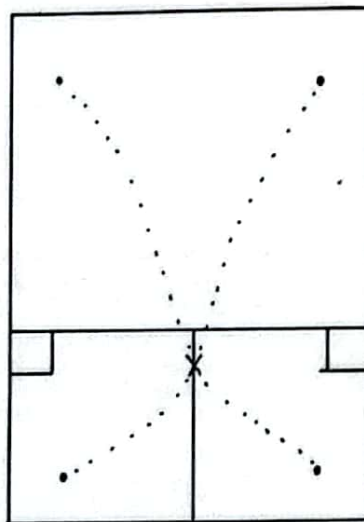
This column has discussed many on-court practice sessions with a partner. Sometimes the drills have called for three on a court at one time. There will be occasions when you will be practicing on your own and the following exercise is an excellent one to utilize.

This practice is called GHOSTING, and is an excellent anaerobic exercise. Done properly, ghosting will also improve footwork and racquet preparation.

Place four balls on the court as indicated. These areas correspond to positions you will be moved to during a match. Position yourself on the "T" and return to the "T" after each movement. When moving to

either back wall target, do so as if you were going to execute a boast. The front wall targets should be approached as you would when playing the ball to length down the wall. The emphasis is on correct footwork. As you proceed through the drill, ensure that you balance the number of front wall and back wall targets.

Initially, perform the exercise at about 75% output to familiarize yourself with the movement and the concept of stroking an imaginary ball. Once you become used to the drill, you should execute the circuit at 90% or better output for one minute and rest for one minute. After five one minute circuits, take a rest and then repeat. To add a competitive edge to this practice, have a



partner time your circuit and count the number of targets reached. While you are resting you can time and count for your partner.

Remember: Fitness + Footwork + Stroke = Success. ●



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TORONTO & DISTRICT JUNIOR ATTRACTS LARGE ENTRY

BY DENNIS GOODFELOW

The Toronto and District Junior Open was held on April 12-14, and was once again hosted by the Ajax Department of Recreation. It appeared that the entire junior community were taking advantage of the low entry fee of \$8.00. A total entry of 128 juniors filled the draws, requiring some 27 hours of tourna-

ment play.

The Ajax club's junior chairman, Mary Wood, was ably assisted by Angela Gleeson in feeding the masses on Saturday. It seemed that they spent the entire day serving hot dogs to all present. Dunlop provided the prizes and the kids supplied the excitement. At the end of Sunday's

play, the following players had won their respective championships:

- BU19 - Gary Waite
- BU16 - Ric Hartunian
- BU14 - Dean Brown
- BU12 - Jon Power
- GU19 - Louise Waite
- GU16 - Stephanie Richardson
- GU14 - Margo Green
- GU12 - Joanne Richardson

Presentations were made to Marilyn Coleman for her work with junior billets and to Joe Brown for his endless hours spent administering the draw. Thanks to the maintenance staff of the Community Centre for their extra hours, and to Rosemary Tuma and Mary McCormick for handling the player registrations. ●

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SQUASH THRIVING IN THUNDER BAY

BY HARTMUT ROSENFELD

Two major squash tournaments highlighted the winter squash season in Thunder Bay.

The Charity Classic sponsored by Casey's Restaurants, was held in late January, attracting 130 competitors in support of the George Jeffrey Children's Treatment Centre. For the second year in a row, the Centre was presented with a \$1,000.00 cheque by Tournament Chairperson Tim Comisso representing the Thunder Bay Squash Association.

Comisso was also one of the big winners, capturing the Men's A event in an exciting closely fought 3-2 decision over Peter Kmeco.

In the Men's A Open event, Rob Hutton, last year's runner-up, defeated Doug Hindman 8-10, 9-1, 9-1, 9-7 to take top honours. Other winners in the four day tournament played at the Canada Games Complex and Confederation College Fitness Centre included Tracy Bachynshi, Women's A; Snehal Lakhani, Men's B; Roy Karlsteadt,

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By Geoffrey Hunt 7 Time World and 8 Time British Open Champion

Men's C; Jeff Taylor, Men's D; Melissa Charbani, Women's B, and Deb Darson, Women's C.

In the Thunder Bay Open, February 21st-24th, 1985, squash enthusiasts were treated for the first time ever to a highly successful professional event. Over \$5,000.00 in prize money was up for grabs as eight of Canada's top 20 professionals vied for the 1st place \$1,500.00 prize. Sponsored by Kelsey's Restaurants, the Red Oak Inn, Labatt's Breweries and Holiday Rent-A-Car, the tournament featured play by 135 local and regional players in nine divisions plus the pro event.

Number one seed and top ranked Roy Ollier headed the professional contingent. Other players included 18-year-old Gary Waite, Jeff Sneyd, the Turk Brothers - Gene and Bill from Winnipeg, Max Weithers, John Frederick and Joe Besso. Four of Thunder Bay's top players - Bill Krezonoski, Rob Hutton, Hilary Kaszor and Doug Hindman - also had the opportunity to test their skills against Canada's best in 1st round play.

The tournament attracted a full house of spectators over the three day period with 150 people cramming in to see an exciting top quality match between the experienced Ollier and youthful, energetic Waite. After a 45-minute first game 10-8 win by Ollier that had spectators in awe, Ollier exploded for a 10-minute 9-0 victory in game 2. Not to be denied, Waite came back to win game three 9-3, but then Ollier took the match, relying on experience and consistency with a 9-6 victory in game 4. To reach the finals, Ollier defeated John Frederick 3-0, and Max Weithers 3-0, while Waite disposed of Jeff Sneyd and Joe Besso by identical 3-1 scores.

In the local events, Rob Hutton won his second tournament of the winter in Men's Open A, defeating Hilary Kaszor 3-1. Other event winners included Ralph St. Jarre, Men's A; Tom Chisholm, Men's B; Rob Sheare, Men's C; Dan Tennant, Men's D; Tracy Bachynski, Women's A, and Ann Farrow, Women's B.

All in all a very successful '84-'85 squash season for Northwestern Ontario. The Thunder Bay Squash Association extends their appreciation to all competitors, volunteers, sponsors and association members, and the ongoing support of Squash Ontario. ●

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SUMMER SQUASH CAMPS FOR JUNIORS OR ADULTS

Are you or your children looking for a way to improve your squash game? Squash Ontario is offering two camps, one for juniors and one for adults. Both courses are being hosted by the Glendon Squash Club. The junior camp is from 10:00-3:00, August 6-9 inclusive. The senior version begins Friday evening, August 9th and runs Saturday and Sunday

from 10:00-4:00.

Both camps will be instructed by visiting English coach Barbara Diggins. Course fees are \$25.00 (junior) and \$75.00 (adult). There are a limited number of spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information, call Squash Ontario at (416) 495-4140. ●

CANADIAN DOUBLES

TOM POOR AND GORD ANDERSON MAKE A WINNING COMBINATION

BY JAN ATKINSON

A large entry of 45 teams gathered to compete in the Canadian Doubles Championships played in Toronto, March 15-17. Open, veterans and seniors events were hosted at the Granite Club, the Royal Canadian Yacht Club and the Toronto Racquet Club, respectively. The Sunday finals were all played at the Granite Club before a large and appreciative gallery.

As all squash players know, there is more to a tournament than

squash. Tournament chairman Barry Grant put together a first-class social programme including a very successful beer night on Friday night. This was quite an achievement, considering we were in the middle of a beer strike!

The Granite Club is renowned for its parties, and the Saturday night dinner/dance was no exception. The players changed from squash gear to black tie to enjoy exceptional food and entertainment.



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Sunday morning started off with the final of the Seniors event. The unseeded team of Rex Aubrey and Tony Crociatta met Morty Goldhar and John Fuller. Aubrey and Crociatta dropped the first game and took the next three. The veterans event saw top-seeded Andy Pastor and Peter Hall advance to the finals without losing a game. It is said that Peter Hall has had more doubles partners than Elizabeth Taylor has had husbands. As with Liz, Peter's partnerships have been very profitable. Pastor and Hall made short work of the final, defeating Bob French and Rick Trumble. This was Peter's fourth Canadian Doubles title, the previous three being in the Open event.

The players and gallery adjourned to the dining room for a superb brunch and presentations to the 1985 Veterans and Seniors Champions. Following brunch, the Open final was played to a packed gallery. The teams were a contrast in youth and experience. The unseeded Winnipeg duet of Bill and Gene Turk arrived in the final with impressive credentials, having defeated top seeded Bill Macdonell and Jamie Bentley in the quarters and then Paul Deratnay and Taylor Fawcett in the semi-finals. The Turk twins came into the finals as underdogs to the team of Tom Poor and Gord Anderson. Tom Poor was twice defending champion with his partner Brad Desaulniers. Brad was unavailable as he was playing in a professional doubles event in New York. Tom found a suitable replacement in Gord Anderson. The ever popular Gord was a previous champion, having won in 1973 with Peter Martin. The final was entertaining, as Gord was firing one-liners as well as he hits his forehand. The relative inexperience of the Turk twins became apparent as occasionally the two would end up in a tangled mass going after the same ball. Meanwhile, on the left wall Tom Poor managed to hold his own as he was seeing most of the play. The match was long and exciting, sprinkled with the occasional joke from Gord Anderson. The end result was a four game decision in favour of the more experienced team of Poor and Anderson.

Next year the event moves to Montreal, who are well known for putting on a great show. Best of luck to them as 1985 is a tough act to follow! ●

KINGSTON PLAYERS VICTORIOUS AT LOCAL EVENT

BY KAREN PETERS

On the weekend of February 8, 9 and 10, 1985, Kingston Tennis World and Racquet Club hosted their annual Men's "C" and Women's "D" squash tournament.

The Men's "C" tournament was sponsored by Molson Breweries, who supplied trophies and prizes to the winners and runners-up.

The Men's winner was Steve Shamie (Queen's University), who defeated Afsar Shah (Toronto). The Consolation title was won by Fraser Godfrey (Sarnia), who defeated Stuart Thorburn of the host club.

The Women's "D" tournament was sponsored by Black Knight. Both the final matches were between home club players. Cathy Walker defeated Laurie Menard to take the Championship, while Karen Peters defeated Bobbie Stanford to win the Consolation title.

Thanks to all participants, and sponsors for a weekend of entertaining squash, and congratulations to the winners! ●

REGENCY MEN'S "D"

BY ROBERT LEFCOE

The second annual Amstel Men's "D" came this year to many as an oasis in a beer drought. The 32 draw had a good mix of Regency members and visiting competitors.

The final was an all university affair, with Richard Brewer of the University of Toronto capturing the title over Tom Clark of Humber College. Richard's cool head and a strong forehand were too much for a shaky and no doubt tired Tom Clark.

Two Regency members saved home town honour with Barry Rowswell winning the consolation and Patrick McNamara taking third place. Pat gave eventual champion Richard Brewer a tough run in the semi-finals, eventually losing in four fast-paced games.

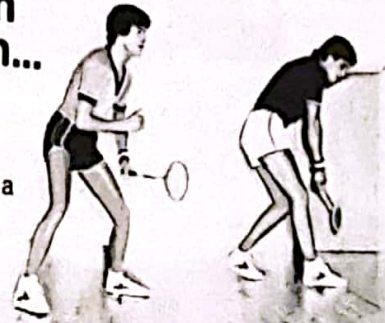
Many thanks to Amstel and the Regency staff, and to the competitors for their spirited play. ●

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SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO LEAGUE FINALS

BY BOB VOLKMAN

On Thursday night, April 4th, the South Western Ontario Squash League held its finals in London. Playoffs for the four S.W.O. Leagues - Women's, Open "A", Open "B", and Open "C" started at 7:30 p.m. and finished around 11:30 p.m., with a total of 20 matches being played. About 100 players and supporters showed up to take part in this end of season event. The S.W.O. League is composed of four leagues and a total of 27 teams from Sarnia, Chatham, Stratford, and London.

The women's team from the A.C.C. (All Canadian Club) de-

feated the London Squash women's team by a score of 3-2, with the match being a deciding one. This set of finals featured the perennial Sue Pexman demonstrating that she can still dominate the court.

In the Open "A", the University of Western Ontario varsity team I defeated the other varsity team by a score of 4-1. These matches were some of the most exciting to watch, featuring long rallies with superbly conditioned players such as Jamie Crombie and Ray McDonald.

In the Open "B", the team from Chatham demonstrated why they

dominated the league throughout the season by beating the A.C.C. "B" team three games to two. There were also some very exciting matches in this group, notably the barnburner between Vic Casciano (ACC) and John Fisher (Chatham).

The Stratford "C" team edged out the A.C.C. "C" team by a score of 3-2. This final went right down to the last game of the last match, with Bill Preston playing an inspired game to pull it off.

Congratulations to the A.C.C. for having three teams in the final event. This is an achievement no other club has accomplished since the start of the league in the early '80s.

Much of the success of the evening was because of the energies and organizational talents of Craig Hall, who did not play on the Western II team because of pulled back muscles.

Also, many thanks to all the players, captains and their member clubs who supported the league and helped make it another successful year. With their continuing support the league will be able to continue to promote the game of squash in the SWO region. ●



IN THE WORLD OF RUMS, THIS ONE STA



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COME FOR THE SQUASH- STAY FOR THE GOOD TIMES

Players are travelling to Toronto from all over the world to compete in the Masters Games. Squash is one of 22 sports involved in this first-ever "olympics for the mature athlete". Competition is offered in singles soft ball and hardball as well as men's, women's and mixed doubles. Players may compete in a maximum of three events. The minimum age requirement is 35 years as of August 14th, 1985, the first day of the eight day squash competition.

In addition to the activity on the

squash courts, the competitors will be kept very busy at a number of social events in conjunction with the Games. There is a dinner/dance planned for all squash players, a Mid-Games Jubilee for all competitors in the 22 sports on the Toronto Islands, and many social events at host clubs. The Keg Restaurants, a major sponsor of the Masters Games, have selected squash as an event they will sponsor directly. The "Good Times" people at The Keg are planning two outdoor

barbeques for the squash players. The week long event is certain to be a memorable one. Deadline for guaranteed entry is June 1st. Entry forms and information are available through Squash Ontario, (416) 495-4140. If you are too young to compete, you can still be involved. The committee would like to hear from interested volunteers. Please call Penny Blink (after 5:30 at (416) 485-1876) if you would like to help out. ●



THE "INTIMATE" MAYFAIR AT THE EAST

BY ADRIAN COLES

The Mayfair group proudly announced the official opening of its fourth racquet and fitness club on December 10, 1984 at 160 Esna Park Drive in Markham. The Mayfair East Racquet Club features ten artificial grass Omnicourt tennis courts, four international squash courts, a spacious licensed lounge area, the Court Cafe restaurant and snack bar, and well furnished locker rooms with whirlpools and sauna baths. There is also a fully equipped Nautilus fitness centre on the lower level which is available on a separate membership basis.

On entering, a spring-like atmosphere has been created with bright furniture, mirrored skylights and an abundance of plants and trees. The squash courts are situated in a line of four, backing onto the lounge area. Two courts are glass-backed and provide excellent viewing for tournaments and round robins, etc. The remaining two courts offer more privacy with smaller viewing windows in the back walls.

"Mayfair East has a more intimate squash atmosphere," declares Pat Gamey, Racquets Professional and guiding light of squash at the club. "Although it is only a young club, it is growing in popularity quickly and the calibre has really picked up. We already have two teams in the city league signed up for next season."

Go-ahead companies, interested in personal fitness, have taken advantage of the facilities at the East, with block bookings for their employees, company tournaments and special evenings. "Dow Chemical, the Toronto Star, the Metro Toronto Police Force, Yellow Pages,



BRIGHT LOUNGE SURROUNDED BY SQUASH COURTS.

Johnson Controls and Confederation Life are among those farsighted organizations," says Pat. "The layout and decor make it ideal for these types of events, and there's always Tommy's food . . ."

Tommy and Maria Pirovolakis operate the Court Cafe and are rapidly gaining a reputation for outstanding culinary offerings. They can cater to large groups with hot or cold buffets.

Any club though, is only as friendly as its members, and the East has developed a core of regular players of all levels of ability. Pat comments, "Whether you are a top player or a newcomer, we have challenge lad-

ders and round robin events to help you get to know other players of your own calibre."

If all this sounds like fun to you and you're not a Mayfair member, why not give Pat Gamey or me a call (475-8833) for a complimentary game of squash or tennis. See you on the courts! ●

This space is reserved for members of clubs of Squash Ontario. We invite clubs to participate by sending a short write-up and photographs to Squash Life. Reprints are available at minimal cost. For information, please contact Squash Ontario, (416) 495-4140.

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